



Envision Chaffee County  
Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017



Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017

**Contents**

Page 3	Executive Summary
Page 7	Full Interview Report – Introduction
Page 8	Project Participants
Page 9	Interview Summary
Page 11	Results by Interview Question
Page 26	Next Steps
Page 27	Appendix



Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017

## Executive Summary

**Envision Chaffee County** is a county-wide, community-based initiative to identify what residents value the most and to create a plan to maintain those aspects as the county grows and prospers. The initiative is engaging residents throughout the county to create a shared vision of the future, and then develop strategic actions to move toward those goals. As part of identifying what the community values, the Envision Team conducted short interviews (five questions) with a broad range of local residents to discuss one-on-one their vision for Chaffee County's future, and garner their feedback on the draft results statements created by the Envision Team during the group's first meeting in early October. **A total of 95 people were interviewed.**

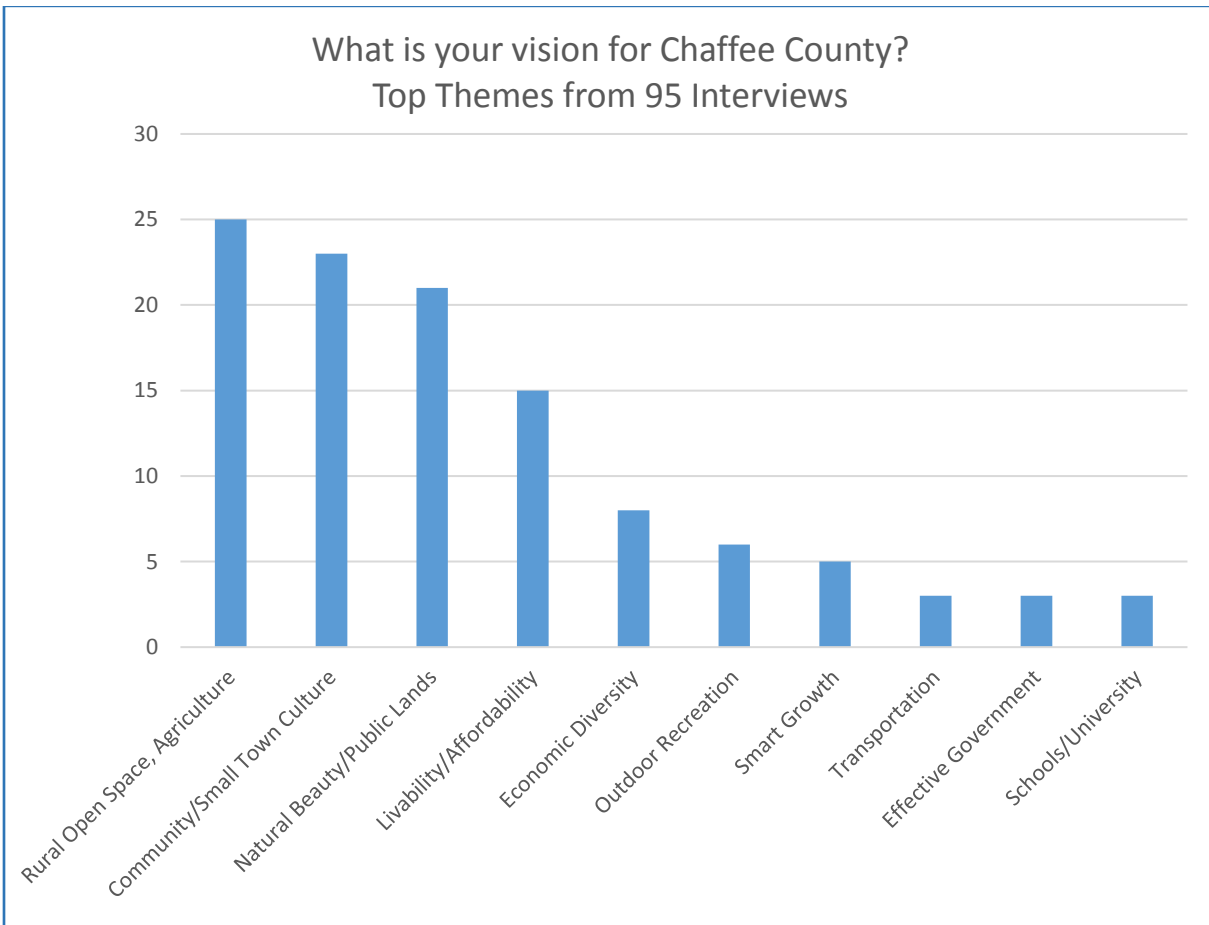
Everyone who participated in the first Envision Team meeting was invited to interview community members. The result was a diverse set of conversations with people who participate in the Chaffee County community a variety of ways, including: Buena Vista and Salida school administrators and teachers; business owners; bankers; realtors; ranchers; public officials; pastors; outdoor enthusiasts; retirees; high school students; seasonal workers; parents; teachers; foresters; and more. Coverage by zip code area and age bracket was representative of Chaffee County's composition.

Interviewees were first asked "What is your vision for Chaffee County?" Top vision themes are summarized in the table and chart below. A very interesting table with all responses is available in the full report that follows.

Vision Theme	Number of responses supporting theme	One Example
Rural Open Space, Agriculture	25	"Ranches continue to support amazing views, hay meadows, wildlife and culture - we don't replace it all with development"
Community/Small Town Culture	23	"A friendly, welcoming, helpful community that supports each other and cares about each other. "
Natural Beauty/Public Lands	21	"Preservation of natural resources -- rivers, forests, clean air, wildlife, trails -- while being smart about growth so it doesn't negatively impact the above."
Livability/Affordability	15	"For my children to be able to live here and prosper, if that's what they choose to do"
Economic Diversity	8	"Chaffee economy is diversified beyond tourism for better paying jobs. "
Outdoor Recreation	6	"Easy access to outdoor activity"
Smart Growth	5	"Have a sustainable population growth plan in place for the County"
Transportation	3	"Alternative transportation encouraged"
Effective Government	3	"More harmony within the local government"
Schools/University	3	"Education system that is unique to Chaffee - outdoor education, local school districts"



Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017



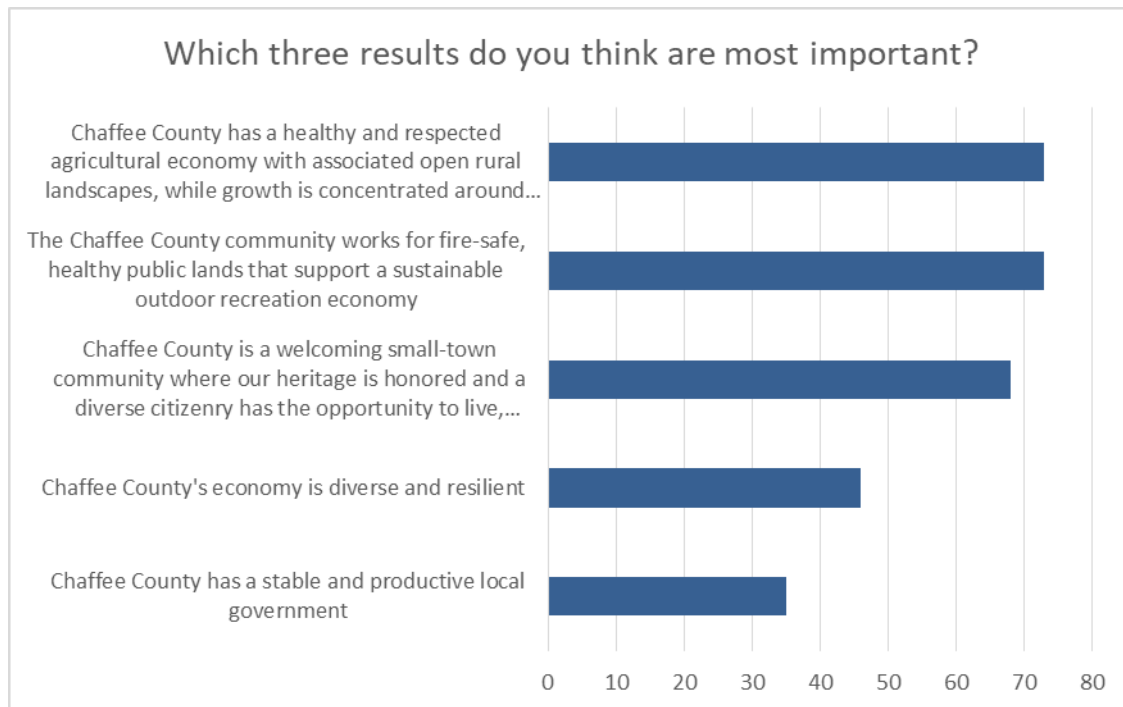
Interviews were conducted in tandem with a broader online survey that asked multiple questions about what community assets Chaffee County residents value. Top themes from the interviews were compared to the themes from the broader community survey, and the two sets of data show strong consistency:

Summary of Visions for Chaffee County's Future	
Chaffee County will successfully manage growth to maintain and enhance these top priorities (in alphabetical order):	
Interview Data (95 respondents)	Survey Data (1,203 respondents)
A community that is affordable (esp. housing)	Affordability (esp. housing)
Community culture/small-town feel	Community (friendly), small-town feel
Economic diversity	Economic diversity and transportation
Exceptional, accessible outdoor recreation	Exceptional outdoor recreation experiences
Healthy public lands and the river	Healthy, fire-resistant public lands and rivers
Open lands and agriculture	Natural beauty
Transportation	Rural landscapes and working agriculture



## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

The second interview question asked participants to provide feedback on the five draft results statements that came out of the first Envision Team meeting. In answering the interview question – “Which three of our draft result statements do you think are most important?” – interviewees indicated their preference as illustrated below:



When interview participants were asked how we, as a community, could measure success, they had terrific ideas, including those noted below. The Envision Team will use these ideas to inform project metrics in the coming phases of the Envision initiative.

- Number of ranches      Growth in towns      Wages
- Housing prices      Acres treated to mitigate fire risk

Finally, interviewees were asked if they could recommend modifications to the five draft results statements and identify any missing themes. Responses strongly validated the general themes and included many great suggestions, with the following top themes emerging:

- 1) The “river” should be included as it is a world class asset central to our community.
- 2) Water should be included as there is a fixed/limited supply.
- 3) Recreation should be included in a way that protects our natural beauty – in balance with providing additional access/economy.
- 4) When thinking of economic diversity, a local college should be a consideration.



Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017

Thank you!

Thank you to the Envision Team and to all interview participants for donating more than 200 hours to listen to each other! More detail about interviewee demographics and complete responses from all interviews are included in the full Envision Chaffee County Interview Report that follows. **The Envision Chaffee County Team encourages everyone to “hear” their fellow community members by taking a few minutes to read through the compiled responses in the full report.** The ongoing engagement of and feedback from our community is essential as we craft a future together based on common ground!

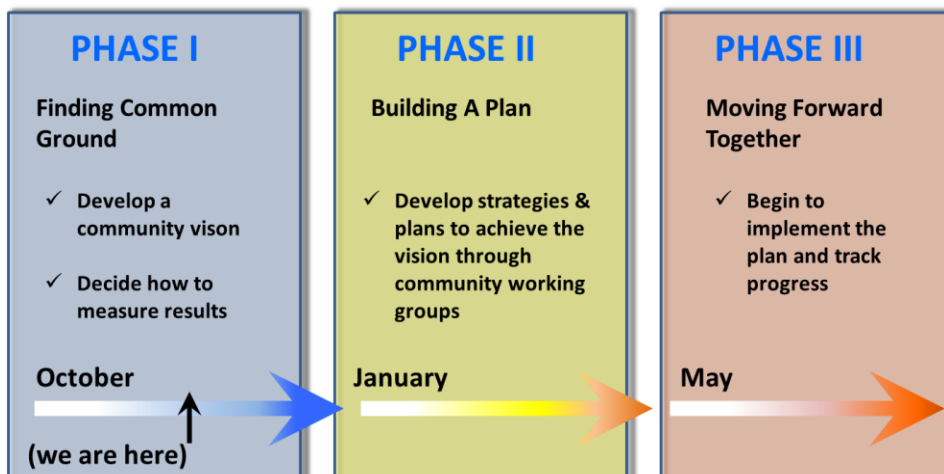


## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

### Full Interview Report Introduction

**Envision Chaffee County** is a county-wide, community-based initiative to identify what residents value the most and to create a plan to maintain those aspects as the county grows and prospers. Whether it is healthy public lands, recreational opportunities, quality schools, rural landscapes or a welcoming small-town attitude, Chaffee County residents are being given the opportunity to share their thoughts – as well as concerns about the future – through the Envision initiative.

Why now? Chaffee County's population is projected to increase 31% by 2030 and 52% by 2050 (State Demography Office). Anticipating such a surge in population and associated changes to the community, the Envision Chaffee County project was initiated in early 2017 by a group of citizens. In September 2017, the Chaffee County Commissioners unanimously agreed to convene the initiative, with support from the Central Colorado Conservancy. The three-phase Envision project officially began in the summer of 2017 and will conclude in May 2018 with an implementation plan.



The Phase I goal is to create a shared vision for the future. Since September 2017, Envision Team members have been gathering input through the following tools and activities:

- **Town Hall Meetings** – more than 100 participants
- **Envision Team Meeting #1** – more than 80 participants created draft results/vision statements
- **Community Survey** – total of 1,203 respondents from across Chaffee County
- **One-on-One Community Interviews** – 95 interviewees from across the county provided input on the draft results/vision statements

The community input will guide program direction and goals going forward.



## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

### Project Participants

The original Envision Project Core Team included: **Greg Felt**, Chaffee County Commissioner District #2; **Cindy Williams**, Project Lead – Central Colorado Conservancy; **Joel Benson**, Mayor of Buena Vista; Dave Kelly, Hi Rocky Sports Inc.; **Andrew Mackie**, Central Colorado Conservancy; **Chelsey Nutter**, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District; **Jeff Post**, First Colorado Land Office; **Wendell Pryor**, Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation; and **Alison Ramsey**, Greater Arkansas River Nature Association.

**Project Funders** are: LOR Foundation; Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA); and Chaffee County.

**In-Kind Contributors** include: Zach Alexander Design and Development (logo development); Laura Barton (communications); Ed Berg, Salida Grown LLC (data processing); Svata Louda (grant proposal development); Cindy Williams, GeoInsights Inc. (project leadership); and Joanna Zarach, Glean Consulting (survey administration).

**Project Facilitation** is by: Bill Fulton, Civic Canopy; Kim Smoyer, Smoyer and Associates; and Amy McNamara, Trust for Public Lands.

**Interviewers included:** Jim Balaun; PJ Bergin; Rick Bieterman; Josh Bechtel; Pip Conrad; Justin Critelli; Jenny Davis; Linda Frances; Jeanne Herrick-Stare; Iza Kudasik; David Lady; Herman Lapp; Jen Leong; Andrew Mackie; Kim Marquis; Chris Martin; Dominique Naccarato; Devon Nichols; Alyssa Peters; Phillip Puckett; Terri Scales; Jennifer Visitacion; Lucy Waldo; Katy Welter; Cindy Williams

**Project Team.** More than 100 Chaffee County residents of all ages and backgrounds participated in town meetings that informed early priorities for the Envision project. Their names are included in the Appendix.



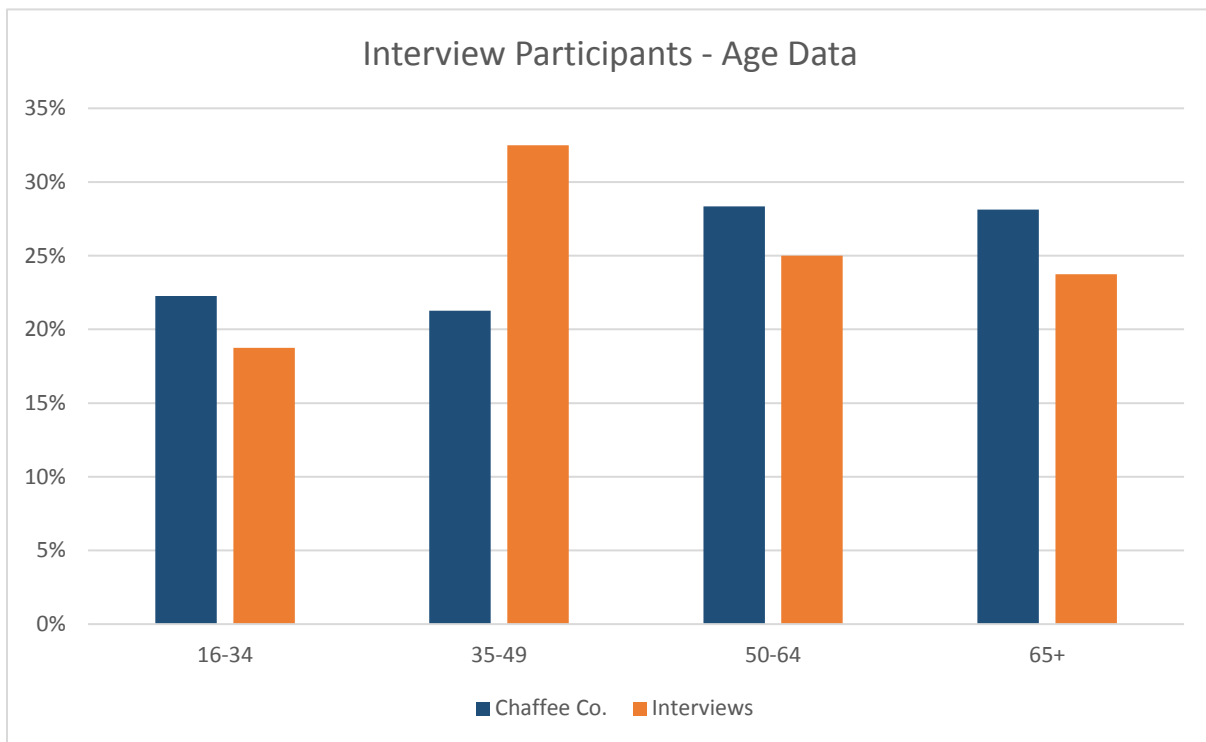


## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

### Interview Summary

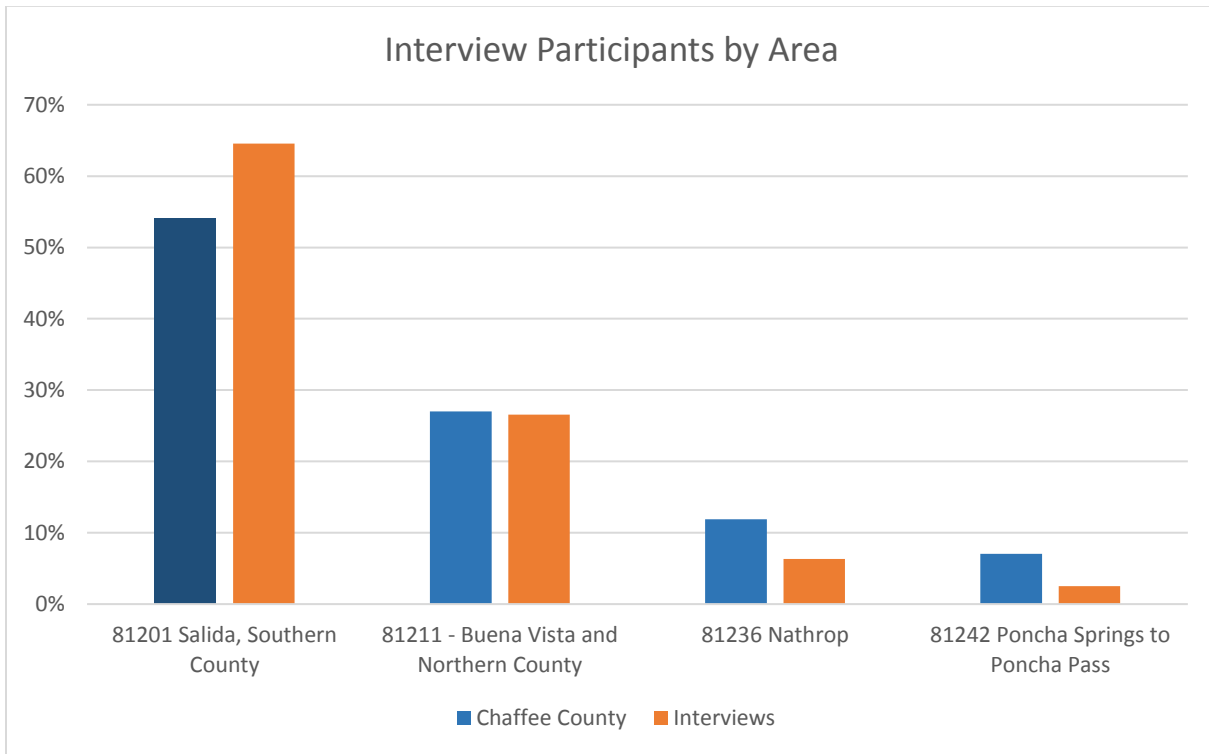
Phase I of Envision Chaffee County is facilitating a conversation about what residents value in their communities, and what they believe are impending challenges from the area’s projected population growth.

Interviewees included residents from throughout Chaffee County, with good representation by age and zip code area when compared with the general county population. The Envision Team strove to interview as broad a cross-section of the community as possible, and this is reflected by diverse range of affiliations and community roles included in the interviewee population. Chaffee County data was provided by the State Demographer’s office, and it is from the most recent (2010) Census.





## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017



*Note: Chaffee County data extrapolated from town populations provided by the State Demographer.*

Interviewees were asked to provide their primary affiliation in the community, but it was not a requirement to complete the interview. The majority of participants did share this information, and the Team was pleased to see broad representation of the local community. In order to ensure interviewee anonymity, affiliation responses were grouped into the following categories (alphabetical order):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Arts &amp; entertainment</li> <li>Banking &amp; finance</li> <li>Business development council</li> <li>Business owner</li> <li>Fraternal organization</li> <li>Government agency</li> <li>Government official – town, county</li> <li>Grassroots initiative</li> <li>Higher education</li> <li>Hospitality</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local schools – administrator, teacher</li> <li>Non-profit &amp; religious</li> <li>Parent</li> <li>Private citizen</li> <li>Public safety – police, fire, search &amp; rescue</li> <li>Real estate</li> <li>Recreation industry</li> <li>School board</li> <li>Social services</li> <li>Student</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



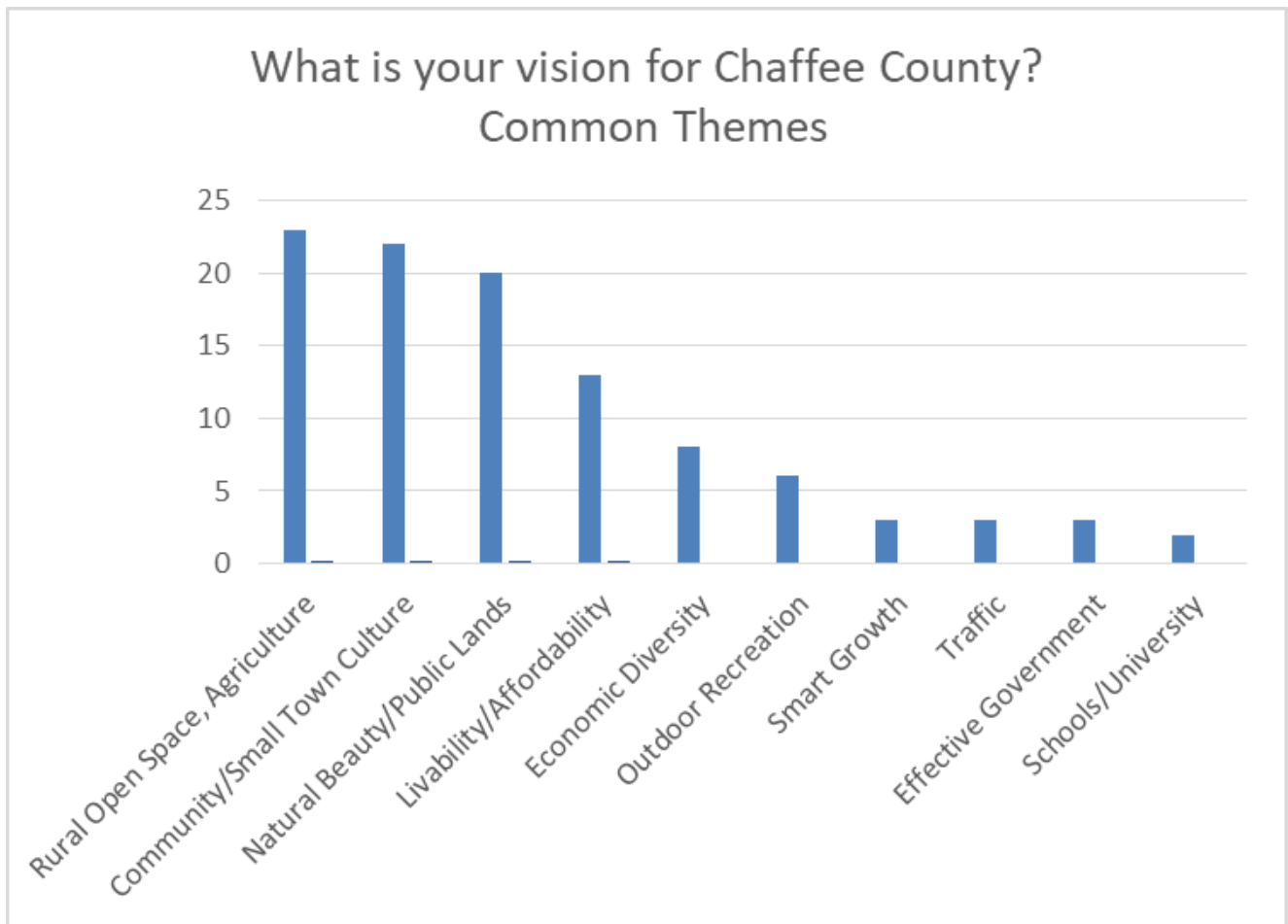
## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

### Results by Interview Question

#### Question #1: What is your vision for Chaffee County in 2030 and beyond?

When the vision statements for all interviewees were analyzed, consistent themes emerged that were very similar to recent Envision Chaffee County Community Survey results. These top themes for community visions of the future include retaining our agricultural landscapes and open spaces, maintaining our community culture, maintaining accessible public lands and the river, having a community that is affordable for working people, diversifying our economy, and keeping access to great outdoor recreation.

Because the population size for interviews is relatively small, the exact ranking of these themes relative to each other should not be considered significant. The results are presented graphically below, followed by a table of responses sorted by the same themes.





Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017

What is your vision for Chaffee County in 2030 and beyond? (Responses sorted by themes in order of frequency)
<b>FIRST THEME: Chaffee County retains rural landscapes and working agriculture, with growth concentrated in towns</b>
View sheds are preserved
Open space -- forest, wilderness, farms and ranches -- should be sacrosanct.
Stay pretty much the same, with lots of ranching and agriculture
Existing farms and ranches maintained. Encourage new farms.
More tourism OK but without sacrificing open space.
As a community resist the temptation to develop on a large scale
I don't want to see Ag squeezed out
A place where there is tons of open space and where development is done in an extremely conscientious and aware way.
Open space is protected.
Secure our water (from front range/water rights). A place where locals aren't bought out (maintains charm).
Open, irrigated spaces preserved.
Do not have poorly planned two-acre developments in the county -- don't want county covered by two-acre lots.
Housing, businesses & industrial growth would be dense, around present towns or planned county locations.
Ranches continue to support amazing views, hay meadows, wildlife and culture - we don't replace it all with development
Promote the preservation of open space
Containment of "sprawl," preserving agricultural and natural resources while supporting economic development
Growth that protects our small town rural values, agricultural land and water resources.
Maintain water rights related to agricultural/ranching uses.
Working Ag lands are not developed. Development is focused in towns.
Keep private lands open space - everything is not developed. Cluster housing together.
Maintain rural character of the county and Salida Rural Agriculture is still active. It is not all subdivided.
There is only 15% private land – let's not develop it all!
We do not lose all of our working ranches and wildlife as has happened in Summit County and other places
Traditional ranches stay in business and new agricultural business develops.
Focus on infill in towns and creating transportation alternatives (shuttles, bike trails, etc.) to limit both sprawl and traffic in the valley, and preserve ag/ranch and open space lands



**Community Interview Results & Assessment**  
**November 7, 2017**

<b>SECOND THEME: Chaffee County retains its special culture and community</b>
Continue / preserve unique character
Keep the small town atmosphere
Maintain and develop opportunities for growth that are consistent with community values
With population growth, what I would like to see is a commitment from new home owners to the community. So many homes in Salida are now 2nd homes, that we've lost the fabric of our community. Preserving a smaller town feel is important, especially in the downtown area.
I don't want to lose our small town character, an example being duplex condos replacing characteristic houses. We do need apartments and affordable housing, but I don't want it to be rampant.
People want to participate in the community
Small businesses are supported
Keep strong sense of community
Keep small-town feeling
Maintain the small-town atmosphere and stop trying to make it like the ski areas
A friendly, welcoming, helpful community that supports each other and cares about each other.
Maintain a small town feel/family feel.
A place where we have a true community
People that come here embrace the culture and heritage instead of trying to change it or put Chaffee on the map
Configuration of homes, businesses, and working agriculture that promotes community
Close-knit community with friendly people. Slower "way of life" than larger metropolitan areas for families.
Small business is protected and encouraged.
I hope it is still the small town I grew up in so I can bring my family to visit in the future and they can see Salida the way I did
Still friendly, safe and small-town feel.
Healthy, multi-economic, multi-age, community with housing, opportunities for all. Keep "small", "rural" atmosphere and honor heritage here. No more "large" chain store operations. Support local entrepreneurs. Outstanding education opportunities
Increasing services and amenities for the community- but preserving historic/nostalgic small mountain town Colorado
Continue small-town friendly feel, not turning us into (example) Vail.
Chaffee has a homey, friendly, small-town atmosphere.
<b>THIRD THEME: Protect natural resources and public lands</b>
Preserve wilderness experience.
Make sure the environment -- trails, mountains, rivers -- are taken care of.
Keep wildlife and forests intact.



## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

My vision for the forest involves limiting permit and use to limit impacts. There's been such an increase in use over the last 5 years such as dispersed camping, roads being pushed further into the forest, and illegal trails being built.
We need more fires around here. That's the only way we're going to get rid of the impacts of spruce bark beetle and return the forest to a healthy balance. There's not enough money or people to mitigate spruce bark beetle at this point. The forest needs to reset. We are in a fire deficit in this area, historically this area would have burned about 5000 acres/year, we would need to burn around 15,000 acres/year to catch up. Because of policy, funding and public perception of prescribed fire, we can't burn more than 1,000 acre per year. So, we need a "Hayden Pass" every year for 10 years to make up that deficit. People don't want fire in their backyard (NIMBY), but they want to live in the forest. The more growth and development into the forest makes it harder and more expensive to allow fire to play its role.
We have managed the forest to decrease fire risk
No massive fire has happened on public lands
Preserve/maintain as much of our natural resources as possible.
Balance between growth and open space and wildlife. We should not grow at the expense of wildlife/mountain lions.
We balance growth with environment.
Public lands are protected.
Keep wild lands wild with thriving downtown areas!
Forest is maintained (big reason why people visit).
River is maintained and access maintained. Forests healthy and access maintained.
Protect animal habitat.
Valley remains as I first experienced it in 2000, it continues to have the same effect on me - with its open space, ranching, the river, high peaks - a place to restore yourself.
Our natural resources stand out over development. It keeps its special feeling.
Public lands are healthy
Clean water
Preservation of natural resources -- rivers, forests, clean air, wildlife, trails -- while being smart about growth so it doesn't negatively impact the above.
<b>FOURTH THEME: We have a community that is livable and affordable</b>
Affordable financially supported community
Inclusive community, inclusive economy, affordable
Do not think we have a diverse community now, can only get there if address how people can afford to live here – major concern
Keep it affordable to live in
For my children to be able to live here and prosper, if that's what they choose to do
I hope it continues to be a place for families, where the outdoors are accessible, and where young people can find a pathway to a career.
Realistic growth, affordable housing



**Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017**

Good place for kids to come and live.
Affordability for locals (the people make the character of Salida). Local workforce not having to commute in.
Jobs and housing for young people
More affordable housing.
Lower cost of living
I would like Chaffee County to be a safe and affordable place.
Cheaper housing -- more apartments, duplexes
<b>FIFTH THEME: We have a diverse economy that supports meaningful and higher paying jobs</b>
Job/entrepreneur opportunities for residents
We have attracted a college to Chaffee County
We should have a college in town - for more diverse economy
Families that want to live here are able to make a living doing something that is meaningful to them
Providing pathways for supporting cultural and economic diversity
Chaffee economy is diversified beyond tourism for better paying jobs.
More industry and a more diverse economy - we get away from a tourism economy.
<b>SIXTH THEME: We have accessible outdoor recreational opportunities</b>
Keep outdoor community priority -- biking, hiking, river
Keep public lands open for recreation
More access to forest via roads Trail development
Open access to outside resources, RE: trail systems, river and public lands.
Easy access to outdoor activity
I would also like for the scenic areas to be utilized by implementing more accessible outdoor activities.
<b>SEVENTH THEME: Government, Transportation, Education</b>
Bring the towns closer, including Leadville
Comradery with everybody and for a positive government now so that things will be in place in 2030.
More harmony within the local government.
Consideration for public transportation
Alternative transportation encouraged other than cars( walk,bike,transit)
There is not choking traffic.
One of the big issues that the schools are beginning to address is the gap between income levels of students living within the school district.
Education system that is unique to Chaffee - outdoor education, local school districts



**Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017**

<b>EIGHTH THEME: Smart, Sustainable or Limited Growth</b>
My vision is for us to have sustainable growth. We have experienced an increase of people moving into the county however at this point we are starting to be at maximum capacity for our schools, our recreation facilities and out local trails. I would like for us to work on finding ways to keep our growth manageable but not stagnant.
Limit population increases, population growth would take into account impacts on the environment.
I see a tremendous amount of growth, it looks like it's going to accelerate each year. It's important that construction can keep pace with the demand. The services must also keep pace with the increase in population. There is beginning to be too much pressure on the services that are here, such as Walmart and Safeway. We need alternative suppliers or merchants to offset that pressure. Emergency Services such as police and fire are feeling that pressure, too. We have to make sure we have adequate emergency resources to meet the demands of growth. In my last year at the Salida Police Department, it was increasingly busy. We need to make sure there is enough emergency responders to keep pace.
I would like to see us limit growth in some ways. I don't want to see unchecked growth.
Have a sustainable population growth in place for the County – planning ahead for growth, so not blindsided by increases in population, this includes: plans for upgrade to infrastructure, utilities, water allocations, internet and for multi-tiered housing (low income, middle income, etc.)

**Question 2. How would you measure whether or not we are successful in protecting what you value?**

As with Question #1, multiple themes emerged under which all interviewee responses to this question could be organized:

<b>How would you measure whether or not we are successful in protecting what you value? (Responses sorted by themes in order of frequency)</b>
<b>FIRST THEME: Chaffee County retains rural landscapes and working agriculture, with growth concentrated in towns</b>
Is there still lots of open ranch land/hay fields in the valley.
New developments have covenants that encourage low impact to view sheds.
Retain open landscapes. I don't open lands (which I want) to "agriculture"
I will still feel it when I drive into Chaffee county! Number of easements. number of ranches. Number of trophy homes visible from the river.
if there is more and more properties under conservation; if development is not intrusive.
Open space preservation, both agricultural and federal/state public lands.
Protected natural areas remain protected. More conservation easements (including for agriculture), non-profits (GARNA, CCC, Guidestone, SPOT, others) are well funded and valued in the community to continue this important work!!!
View shed is preserved.
I think that a good measure would be growth in the nearby towns
Success = requiring County subdivision lot buyers to purchase water rights, with the County providing conservation education so we do not continue to ruin the County's soils and lose water to non-local development.
There are NOT more subdivisions Not more extractive industries Not breaking up ranches





## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

We have strategies to keep the next generation in agriculture. Ranches pass successfully to the next generation. We maintain the number of properties with county Ag status. We do not have more gated communities.
New people understand the value of local ranchers.
<b>SECOND THEME: Chaffee County retains its special culture and community</b>
Are noise levels in residential areas and recreation areas not increasing significantly? Has City Market increased its parking lot to a size to deal with growth? Is Buena Vista still not another Aspen or Breckenridge?
No more traffic lights than exist today, able to find parking, no additional box stores.
County has a transportation plan. Less congestion in town.
Do I still feel safe or am I feeling safer?
Dollars spent on building community. How many people know their neighbors name. How often to neighbors get together.
Traffic is not a dis-incentive for people to live and visit here.
Keep in touch with local satisfaction Interviews ongoing
Maintain quality schools
Safety/crime rate. Number of BV Strong participants. Number of opportunities to connect with and meet neighbors. Number of barn dances.
We maintain our culture. People have respect for and listen to each other.
I would still see people I know when I go out and about downtown, I could find a parking spot downtown, there would be real businesses serving local residents downtown not just art galleries and breweries catering to tourists. Salida would be known for its friendliness rather than getting publicity for its drinking establishments.
Monitoring and measuring building permits each year. Crime statistics will measure adequacy of emergency provider services. Sales tax revenue will measure provision of services. Traffic studies will be useful. The number of grocery stores will show that adequate service is provided in the retail realm. Surveying merchants for their input will be useful.
Less 2nd home ownership will be easy to measure. Closing the downtown would be a measure of commitment to preserving the small town feel.
The quality of the experiences that I have, both personally and professionally.
How would you measure whether or not we are successful in protecting what you value? Table of raw data sorted by themes.
<b>THIRD THEME: protecting natural resources and public lands</b>
Chaffee County should stay as beautiful and accessible, if not more, in the future years to come.
Fire Safe
Keep same attitude towards cherishing our natural resources.
River remains a world class asset - for white water, fishing, and as a place to restore yourself.
I would measure how much we are successful in protecting what we value by how much natural and beautiful land we have.
Through data gathered, national forest, BLM.
People would really care about the land versus just using the place like "Disney Land".
Wildlife not under pressure, fire risk is managed, waters support fish, human-wildlife encounters stable



## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

Number of acres of forest treated to decrease fire hazard
We have clean waterways and safe trails There would be diverse opportunities for ecological education.
I would still be able to go out and hear the elk bugle.
Dollars of infrastructure (houses, power lines, water facilities) threatened due to deadstanding trees and risk of fire/dead fall
My quality personal experience example is Gold Medal Trout Status for the Arkansas River. I enjoyed the secluded fishing experience before it became a combat fishery due to Gold Medal status. I believe Gold Medal status is negatively impacting the fishery, in my experience, I've seen more trash, more mishandled fish, more use impacts (social trails, footprints, etc.) But, I recognize that this is complex. Gold Medal status may make it possible for someone else to enjoy the fishery. Large scale fire could impact the fishery, a large fire on Monarch Pass will impact the water quality for a while.
On a professional level, success would be measured by whether we're prescribed burning enough to make up the fire deficit, more than 5000 acres/ year of treatment (mechanical or burning.) Every year, when we burn 1000-1500 acres, I feel like we're getting something done, but it's not enough.
Forest health - we should look at the number of acres of forest infested by insects year by year as a measure of forest health and fire danger
<b>FOURTH THEME: We have a community that is livable and affordable</b>
Faster internet More affordable housing
Free and reduced lunch will measure economic diversity within the school district. Increased amount of affordable housing will show that we are welcoming of economically diverse
If gentrification continues as it has the past five years, all hope is lost and we will be failing to retain what I value. It needs to level off.
Monitoring housing prices and cost of living
<b>FIFTH THEME: We have accessible outdoor recreational opportunities</b>
By the quality of our outdoor experiences.
Be able to go out and recreate and not have natural resources ruined by influx of people. Success=no resource damage.
Can I easily recreate without crowds of people making the experience more difficult or less enjoyable? Am I feeling burdened by bureaucracy to enjoy the outdoor communities?
I value outdoor activities such as basketball and BMX
Monitor closure of public lands
How would you measure whether or not we are successful in protecting what you value? Table of raw data sorted by themes.
<b>SIXTH THEME: We have a diverse economy that supports meaningful and higher paying jobs</b>
People are paid a livable wage- so that our service industry can thrive and retain employees.
By the economic and social diversity of our residents
Census information. Average resident age, average income and number of people living under the poverty threshold.
There are more jobs.
How many locals visit the shops vs. tourists.



**Community Interview Results & Assessment**  
**November 7, 2017**

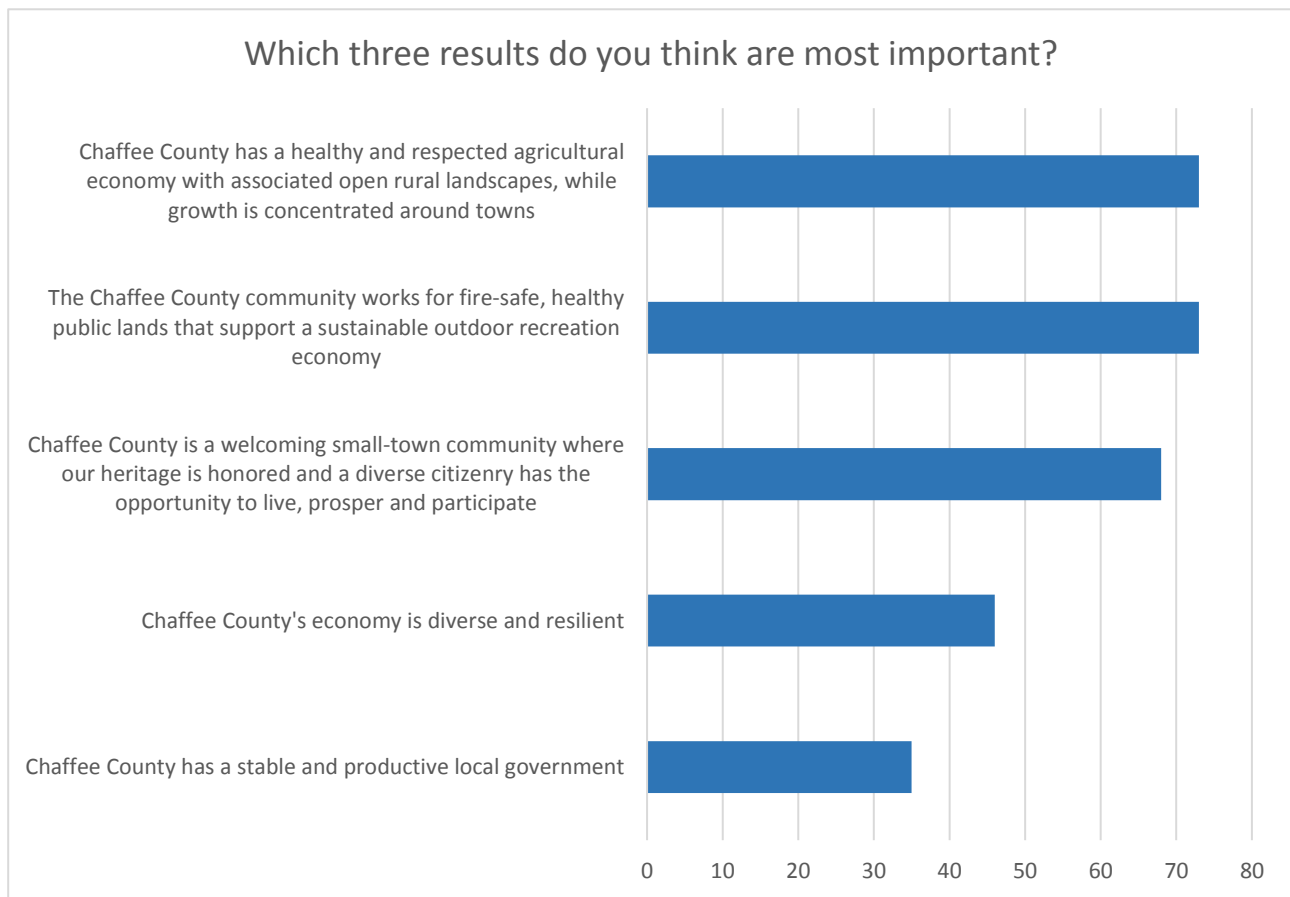
We have a higher education / college here.
Percentage of full time vs part time residents Number of businesses that are not tourism based
<b>SEVENTH THEME: Government, Transportation, Education</b>
Salida would have a 4 year college, bringing active, young energy.
Harmony in local governments could be measured by looking at the platform that candidates are running on (personal attacks vs. discussing ideas).
Opening up of new schools, and business
<b>EIGHTH THEME: Smart, Sustainable or Limited Growth</b>
I am still happy that I chose to live here for the rest of my life. We have a good Comprehensive plan that we use.
Limits on unfettered population growth - ie more limits to second homes.
We have a 20 year plan
We have a 20 year plan connecting cities and county We have "home rule" ability so people who live adjacent to towns can vote on town issues.
<b>Envision Program</b>
Every 5 years the goals of the envision project should be reevaluated with set parameters, to see if the goals are being met.
Observe and evaluate so called "progress" bi-annually with community in-put.



## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

### Question #3: Which three results do you think are the most important? (mark three)

This question asked interviewees to respond to the five draft results/vision statements created by the Envision Team in the group's first meeting on October 4 and select the three they believe are most important. The chart below illustrates the results, with percentage of total responses received:





**Community Interview Results & Assessment**  
**November 7, 2017**

**Question #4: Are there any important modifications you would make? (Describe)**

This question asked interviewees to expand on their reaction to the five results/vision statements. Responses are grouped below according to which specific statement they are related.

<b>1. Chaffee County is a welcoming small town community where our heritage is honored and a diverse citizenry has the opportunity to live, prosper and participate.</b>
#1 - remove "heritage" How do you honor heritage when citizenry is diverse?
Change the #1 "that our evolving heritage is honored"
Pedestrian-friendly transportation.
Re: #1 - "Honoring our heritage" is perhaps problematic. Heritage implies our culture, our families, our neighbors, our common stories. If we say the past informs the present and is prelude to the future, "heritage" will give little guidance for the world to come. Also, what of the heritage that's not so desirable: dried-up farmlands, mine tailings, wholesale land development into small parcels that are yet too large to form true community. Re: #3: We need to avoid degradation of recreational resources. The "recreation economy" will disappear if we don't take care of the resources that sustain it.
That we avoid the attraction of big-box stores (which will kill downtown businesses).
The community values family and family life, and provides resources for youth -- this should be represented.
What does "heritage" mean = open landscapes for me
I like "where our heritage is honored" in number 1. I like "open rural landscapes" in number 2.
<b>2. Chaffee County has a healthy and respected agricultural economy with associated open rural landscapes, while growth is concentrated around towns.</b>
#2 infrastructure will mandate growth - towns will have to bleed off into private lands
Also, very important focus on view scapes, critical part of our natural resources.
#2 The agricultural economy is not that important to the overall economy in Chaffee county, 5% per County website. Landscapes can be open without agriculture. Growth should be concentrated in towns, however.
#2. There is too much separating of farming. town needs to be more of a melting pot
Put #2 and #3 together in one result (does not matter to him about public and private lands – both are equally important)
Modify #2 with "Growth encouraged in towns" vs. concentrated - we need regulations and town policies that support this.
Your above results are too vague. They need to be more specific. What about #2 Chaffee County has a healthy & respected agricultural economy with associated open rural landscapes, Growth would be concentrated around towns or other county specified sites. This would be my main top result with these modifications.
On Agriculture -we do not have an Ag economy and never have, but yes on development focused in towns. Yes to protecting public lands - they drive our tourism economy.
On economy - I would like to see more diversity but it is not realistic given our infrastructure.



**Community Interview Results & Assessment**  
**November 7, 2017**

<b>3. The Chaffee County community works for fire-safe, healthy public lands that support a sustainable outdoor recreation economy.</b>
#3 is most important - our public lands are invaluable. We should better define "Healthy" Use "Wildlands" instead of public lands to capture river.
Add environmentally healthy landscape and open space, not just outdoor recreation.
Emphasis is on economy, should be balanced with equal weight on having a sustainable environment.
Don't use "Sustainable".
Don't use sustainable
Don't want more outdoor rec - want it sustainable or managed
Greater appreciation for trails, bike safety, protecting views
More opportunities to experience the possibilities of the outdoors firsthand (trails, zip lines, etc.)
Outdoor recreation: Sustainable trails only whether it be hiking, biking or motorized use. It's too easy for motorized groups (with money to "hand-out") to take over trails displacing larger use groups, namely hikers.
Renew basketball court at alpine and renew skate park
Replace "Fire Safe" with "Fire Resilient" which is more accurate as we cannot stop fire, just mitigate
Secure water rights/water protection
Specifically state that rec includes sustainable opportunities on river. More connecting trails on public town land and other land.
<b>4. Chaffee County has a stable and productive local government.</b>
#4 feels like the flavor of the month - it has recency bias and is not on the same level as the others.
Add to #4 -- governments that work together; towns and county act like they are intermingled.
Community is connected with each other. Government is productive and transparent.
Our government must be pro-active, not passive as in the past, and not serving only developers.
Try to create a political environment that works for the electorate -- not for the respective party Focus on technical education along with traditional education
#4 is not on the same level as the others - I do not know why it is here
<b>5. Chaffee County's economy is stable and diverse.</b>
Add cost of living (worried it will turn into Aspen)
Lump #1 and #5 into one, add housing, especially if economy based on outdoor recreation, need affordable housing for service and outdoor rec industry.
define diversity better;
Also on #5 use diversified instead of "diverse" which means to me broad and racial things.
Keep affordable housing in mind; near employment.
Need more focus in #5 on industry - modify to "A Chaffee economy that welcomes industry and works for affordable living".
On #5 - we should have a college in town - for more diverse economy.
Placing an importance on affordable housing to help growth.
Something that allows youth to have continued education in the area -- secondary school/trade/collegiate.



**Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017**

Workforce housing in a factor for growth.
#5 - reliance on recreational tourism undermines diverse social fabric, whereas sustainable forestry and higher education enrich economic and social resiliency.

**Question 5. Is there any critical result you would add? (Describe)**

As with Question #4, this question asked interviewees to expand on their reaction to the five results/vision statements by adding any important topics they believed are missing. There were some consistent themes that emerged – some related to the five statements, and some completely new. All responses are grouped below by these themes (in alphabetical order):

<b>THEME: AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>
Affordable housing
Affordable housing needs to be worked on continuously.
More access to affordable housing.
Referring to #1 - pay scales catch up to cost of living
For me "affordable housing" = subsidized housing. The high housing costs is due to government control in the towns that overly restricts development and makes it too expensive - town policies are forcing people to live in the country
<b>THEME: ECONOMY</b>
Across all spectrums would be best served by bringing in a 4 year liberal arts college economic resilience and diversity at the fore.
A community of small-business owners who work together for the good of all citizens.
Allow business owners who live in the county to vote in city elections
As voted, add development of sustainable renewable energy such as indigenous geothermal energy.
Diverse and healthy economy/industry.
Encourage our county to be part of pilot programs. Integrate more community college training that puts our youth in position to have success and opportunity in the valley.
The cost of doing business is lower, it is more affordable to do business here.
<b>THEME: FAMILIES, CHILDREN, COMMUNITY</b>
Provide/continue to provide opportunities for children to learn about and value/protect natural resources in our valley -- they will be the future stewards of our vision. Review/modify city codes as well, to allow infill or denser land use in areas while still preserving pocket parks and green spaces within the communities.
Something regarding family/family life.
Supportive to families - keeping young people here. Higher Education.
<b>THEME: GOVERNMENT</b>
Health facilities continue to grow and attract the best, qualified professionals.
Local government needs to be stable, powerful entity.
The County government has been too long under the influence of non-elected persons, who know nor care for natural resource and agricultural conservation in the long term.
Salida needs better policies that encourage a small town feel and encourage affordable housing.



**Community Interview Results & Assessment**  
**November 7, 2017**

<b>THEME: OUTDOOR RECREATION</b>
Balance increasing outdoor rec with protecting wildlife
Connecting bike and hike trails into country, not just town.
Recreation & outdoors
I would love to see us continue to work on developing more recreation; ice skating, more disc golf courses, more designated biking and hiking trails.
<b>THEME: PUBLIC LANDS</b>
A culture of respect for public lands, minimize motorized traffic (razors), education on quite use
Ecologically balanced and sustainable environment
We need the state land board, USFS, BLM, CPW and the CO State Forest Service involved!
Keeping public lands public and accessible.
<b>THEME: SMART GROWTH</b>
Limit the density of the housing in the county to specific areas to diversity is maintained.
Managing growth
Open space, viewscales, ecologically balanced and sustainable environment
Managing growth for the county in an acceptable way to help the important results above.
Managing type of growth (i.e., not many condos currently compared to other resort communities). Refine land-use planning.
Healthy smart growth. Affordable housing.
Sustainable growth. Not all focused on tourism. The aging population will move on, who will be here to work and take their place.
We need a better Comprehensive plan and we need to use it.
We want to choose who comes here - "smart growth" is attracting the businesses and type of people we want. We want an economy that works year-around. Need more economic diversity. Get the CCEDC to work on more business diversity. Recruit people with new skills.
<b>THEME: WATER</b>
Water preservation
WATER, very important, need to keep local
Water - there is only x amount of water available to support a given number of businesses and residential development
Preservation of clean, wild-flowing waters have not been mentioned: This is crucial- in addition, I consider clean community effluent of equal importance. I feel strongly that the entire community-
<b>GENERAL</b>
There should be a lot more interactive and accessible mental health counseling and treatment.
The community is sustainable - or green - we ban plastic bags, increase solar, have dark skies, grow our own food. Chaffee is a LEADER/MODEL/Shining example of a sustainable community in balance with the environment.





## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

Finally, interviewees were asked if they had any other thoughts, suggestions or concerns that they would like to share. Just a few people had a final statement or idea:

- Chaffee County needs a good place for its workforce to live without having to leave the county.
- Colo Ag stats are available at with the Co Ag Statistics Service.
- Envision needs to encourage greater participation of young people such as high school students.
- Salida needs to better encourage affordable housing with lower development costs per unit. We need a college here - like CMC.
- To involve the whole community, we should involve builders/ construction/public lands agencies/ transportation/etc.
- Only 17% of our land can be managed - so we better do it right!
- For me "affordable housing" = subsidized housing. The high housing costs is due to government control in the towns that overly restricts development and makes it too expensive - town policies are forcing people to live in the country.
- The homeless population in Salida is a concern. I don't feel as safe hiking the trails in Chaffee County as I used to. There are people living all over the place. The Rainbow Trail is gaining a reputation for being really sketchy.
- My biggest one is that we are able to maintain a lot of the values that make people want to live here as we continue to see an increase in population. I see people moving here and trying to change it into the place they just moved from, which doesn't make sense. They expect to have the amenities that they had in the place they came from, but we don't necessarily have the resources for that. For example: parking downtown is highly contested, lots of people are upset that there's a lack of parking but it's always been that way, so we need some kind of proactive solution, such as a transit service. People move here (locals too) and expect to be able to drive and park downtown, but people continue to move here and expect that. Denver and Co Spgs parking solutions don't fit our rural communities.



## Community Interview Results & Assessment November 7, 2017

### Next Steps

The results of the community interviews will play a key role in informing the remainder of the Envision Chaffee County initiative. These valuable insights into what local residents value, and also what they're concerned about, are the foundation on which recommendations for county-wide strategies will be created in the remaining project phases.

#### Phase I – Finding Common Ground

- What do we value?
- Where do we want to be?
- How can we work together?

**Components:** town meetings; community survey; interviews – to identify community objectives and measurable outcomes

**Status:** Ongoing through January 2018

#### Phase II – Building Our Future

- How do we get there?
- What is our plan?

**Components:** working groups – to formalize recommendations in order to achieve outcomes

**Status:** Planned for January to May 2018

#### Phase III – Moving Forward Together

- Implementation

**Components:** final plan with recommendations to be presented to community leadership

**Status:** Planned to follow May 2018

It's a great time to get involved! Anyone interested in participating in the Envision project is welcome – please contact:

Terri Scales, Project Director

[terri@centralcoloradoconservancy.org](mailto:terri@centralcoloradoconservancy.org)

719.539.7700

Visit [www.envisionchaffeecounty.org](http://www.envisionchaffeecounty.org) anytime for the latest project updates and news.



Community Interview Results & Assessment  
November 7, 2017

**Appendix – Thank you to Envision Chaffee County Team participants (through November 2017)**

Dave Armstrong	Kathryn Hardgrave	Jeff Post
Chuck Azzopardi	John Held	Janine Pryor
Keith Baker	Fred Henderson	Wendell Pryor
Christie Barton	Anna Hendricks	Alison Ramsey
Brian Beaulieu	Jeanne Herrick-Stare	Nancy Roberts
Brian Berger	Rick Hum	Susan Roebuck
Keith Berger	Jane Jolley	Eileen Rogers
Rick Bieterman	Paige Judd	Lee Rooks
Rebecca Biglow	Jan Justice	Jon Roorda
Nicole Blaser	Kory Katsimpalis	Randy Rupp
Holly Blitstein	Dave Kelly	Terri Scales
Alison Brown	Keith Kirchner	Ben Scanga
Cheryl Brown-Kovacic	Damon Lang	Norma Seneca Cady
Josh Buckberg	Ben Lara	Trey Shelton
Lynn Camp	Cammeron Larson	Susan Shepherd
Andrea Carlstrom	Buffy Lenth	Dan Shore
Ashleigh Cogan	Jim LiVecchi	Daniel Smith
Brennan Cogan	JD Longwell	Kim Smoyer
Bruce Cogan	Andrew Mackie	Terry Stevens
Kelly Collins	Billy Marquis	Aubrey Tamietti
Ed Cooper	Kim Marquis	Brittany Tezah
Brian Eagleson	Lisa Martin	James Thompson
Albert Eggleston	Ken Matthews	Jim Thompson
Brady Everett	Leslie Matthews	Kathryn Wadsworth
Mike Fay	John McCarthy	Lucy Waldo
Samar Fay	Katherine McCoy	Dan Waldvogel
Greg Felt	Read McCullouch	Lois Walton
Mike Fischer	Ken McMurray	Angela Welborn
Janet Franz	Amy McNamara	Doug Welch
Bill Fulton	Brink Messick	Katy Welter
Bill Gardiner	Dave Moore	Rob White
Kate Garwood	Dominique Naccarato	Forrest Whitman
Katy Grether	Susan Nies	
Frank Gurney	Jim Pitts	