

Musselshell County

GROWTH POLICY UPDATE



JUNE 2011

Prepared by:



Prepared for:

**Musselshell County
Planning Board**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
HISTORY	8
Preface.....	8
Local History	9
POPULATION	12
Summary of Trends.....	12
Estimates and Projections	12
Population Characteristics and Change.....	13
LAND USE	15
Summary of Trends.....	15
Land Use in Musselshell County	15
Musselshell County Land Use and Ownership	15
Public Ownership.....	16
Agricultural Land	17
Musselshell County Developed Area.....	17
Roundup Land Use	18
Roundup Area Residential Development	18
Roundup Area Commercial Development.....	19
Roundup Area Industrial Development.....	19
Town of Melstone Land Use.....	19
Residential Development.....	19
Commercial Development.....	20
Industrial Development.....	20
Community of Musselshell Land Use	20
Existing Development.....	20
Public or Government Use	20
Subdivisions	21
HOUSING	26
Summary of Trends.....	26
Estimates and Projections	26
Housing Characteristics and Needs.....	26
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS	29
Summary of Trends.....	29
Income and Employment	29

LOCAL SERVICES	35
Law Enforcement.....	35
Education	36
Health Care Facilities	38
Other Facilities.....	39
Musselshell County Courthouse.....	39
City Offices.....	39
Churches*	40
Senior Citizen Services.....	40
Musselshell County Council on Aging.....	40
Area II Agency on Aging	41
Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP).....	41
Senior Corps	41
RSVP	41
Museum	42
Library	43
Community Center	44
Fire and Emergency Services.....	45
Roundup/Musselshell County Volunteer Fire Department.....	45
Melstone Fire Department	46
Emergency Medical Services	46
Public Health Services.....	47
Other Services	51
Alternatives, Inc.....	51
Youth Community Home (YCH).....	51
City Parks	52
Roundup	52
Melstone.....	52
 INFRASTRUCTURE	 54
Summary of Trends.....	54
City of Roundup	54
Town of Melstone	64
Community of Musselshell	74
 NATURAL RESOURCES.....	 80
Summary of Trends.....	80
Mineral and Oil and Gas Resources.....	80
Wind Resources.....	81
Water Resources	81
Soils	86
Timber.....	86
Noxious Weeds.....	87
Wildlife.....	88

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	90
Preface.....	90
Goals and Objectives	90
Goal #1 - Economy	91
Goal #2 - Residential Development	91
Goal #3 - Infrastructure.....	92
Goal #4 - Cultural and Natural Environment.....	93
Musselshell County Development Issues	93
Residential Development	93
The Local Economy.....	95
Industry.....	96
Infrastructure Needs	96
Community Facilities	97
Summary of Issues.....	97
IMPLEMENTATION	100
Implementation Measures	100
General.....	100
Regulatory Methods.....	101
County Development Regulations.....	102
Zoning Ordinance	103
Subdivision Regulations.....	104
Subdivision Regulations Evasion Criteria.....	106
Floodplain Regulations.....	106
Conservation Easements	107
Capital Improvements Plan	107
Implementation Strategy.....	112
Implementation Schedule	113
Implementation Action Plan	113
Planning Coordination.....	113
Subdivision Review	114
Review and Amendment	116
Review	116
Amendments	116
Public Hearings Procedures.....	116
LIST OF FIGURES	
Figure 1 Musselshell County	4
Figure 2 City of Roundup	5
Figure 3 Town of Melstone	6
Figure 4 Community of Musselshell	7
Figure 5 Population Trends	14
Figure 6 County Land Use and Public Ownership.....	22
Figure 7 Roundup Existing Land Use.....	23
Figure 8 Melstone Existing Land Use	24
Figure 9 Musselshell Existing Land Use	25

Figure 10	Roundup Water System.....	54
Figure 11	Roundup Sewer System	55
Figure 12	Melstone Water System	62
Figure 13	Melstone Water System Proposed Improvements	65
Figure 14	Musselshell County Roads.....	71
Figure 15	Roundup Streets.....	72
Figure 16	Melstone Streets.....	73
Figure 17	Musselshell Streets	74

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Needs Assessment/Public Comment Musselshell County Growth Survey – Summary of Results Growth Policy Results Posters Survey Cover Letter and Press Release Public Meetings and Comments
Appendix B	Resource and District Maps B1 Coal Resources and Underground Mines B2 Oil and Gas Resources B3 Prime Farmland Soils B4 County Floodplain B5 Vegetation B6 Land Cover B7 Commissioner Districts B8 School Districts and Bus Routes B9 Watershed Groups
Appendix C	City of Roundup Housing Plan
Appendix D	Disaster and Emergency Plan
Appendix E	Wildland Urban Interface Guidelines BLM Policy County Determination
Appendix F	Sand and Gravel Resources 2010 Gravel Pit Status Potential Resources (NRCS Data) Sand and Gravel Potential (Figure F1)
Appendix G	2003 Growth Policy Excerpts Population Housing Economic Conditions Land Use Natural Resources
Appendix H	2003 Growth Policy Goals and Objectives Summary
Appendix I	Musselshell County Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) 2009
Appendix J	City of Roundup Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) 2010 Update
Appendix K	Town of Melstone Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) 2002
Appendix L	City of Roundup Zoning Map
Appendix M	Musselshell Growth Policy Survey Question and Comments



INTRODUCTION

Since the passage of the Growth Policy Statute (76-1-601, MCA) by the 1999 Legislature, local governments in Montana with adopted plans have been concerned about the legality of enforcing regulations that were based on a plan prepared before enactment of the new law. Municipalities were also concerned about annexation of property in accordance with the law. One crucial element included in the legislation was the requirement that Master Plans (Growth Policies) address all elements listed by October 1, 1999. A transition clause allowed for enforcement of zoning regulations based on a plan adopted prior to October 1, 2001. Some changes to the original statute were made by the 2001 through 2009 legislative bodies, but the main content of the original bill was left substantially intact. The major changes included a change in the definition of a Growth Policy to include Comprehensive Plans adopted prior to October 1, 1999, and an extension of the deadline for compliance to October 1, 2006. Effective October 2009, growth policies must contain an evaluation of the potential for fire and wildland fire danger and whether or not there is a need to delineate the wildland-urban interface and adopt regulations. The 2009 changes also included a requirement for a description of sand and gravel resources in the jurisdictional area.

Since existing zoning (or development regulations) must be based on a compliant growth policy, any existing ordinance must be changed so that it is consistent with the intent of the new plan (Growth Policy). Any subsequent changes to zoning regulations will therefore be based on a compliant plan and will be legally enforceable.

It is the intent of the Planning Board that the document included herein be considered as the official update of the Growth Policy for Musselshell County, the City of Roundup, and the Town of Melstone. Conditions and trends are discussed in the first part of the document, the goals and objectives are established in the second part, and implementation measures used to guide future development in compliance with the goals and objectives of the growth policy are contained in the last section. The growth policy was developed by the City - County planning board working with the Musselshell County Commission, the City of Roundup, Central Montana Resource Conservation and Development, and Great West Engineering over the past year to address the items required by the Growth Policy Statute and to re-assess the needs and preferences of the citizens in the planning area. The 2010 Musselshell County Growth Policy Update includes the background and historical data developed for the original growth policy prepared in 2003. The 2003 report is available for

reference at the County Commissioner's office, the City of Roundup Public Works Department, and the Melstone Town Hall.

The Growth Policy is intended to serve as a planning guide for local officials and citizens throughout the planning period from its adoption in 2010 up to the year 2030. It is a long range statement of local public policy providing guidance for accommodating development within the county. The plan is designed to be used by local government officials as they make decisions which have direct or indirect land use implications. Further, it is designed to be used by officials of other government agencies (federal, state and adjacent local entities) as a framework for coordinating their land use planning efforts in and adjacent to the county. The document will be reviewed and, if necessary, updated at least every 5 years during the planning period.

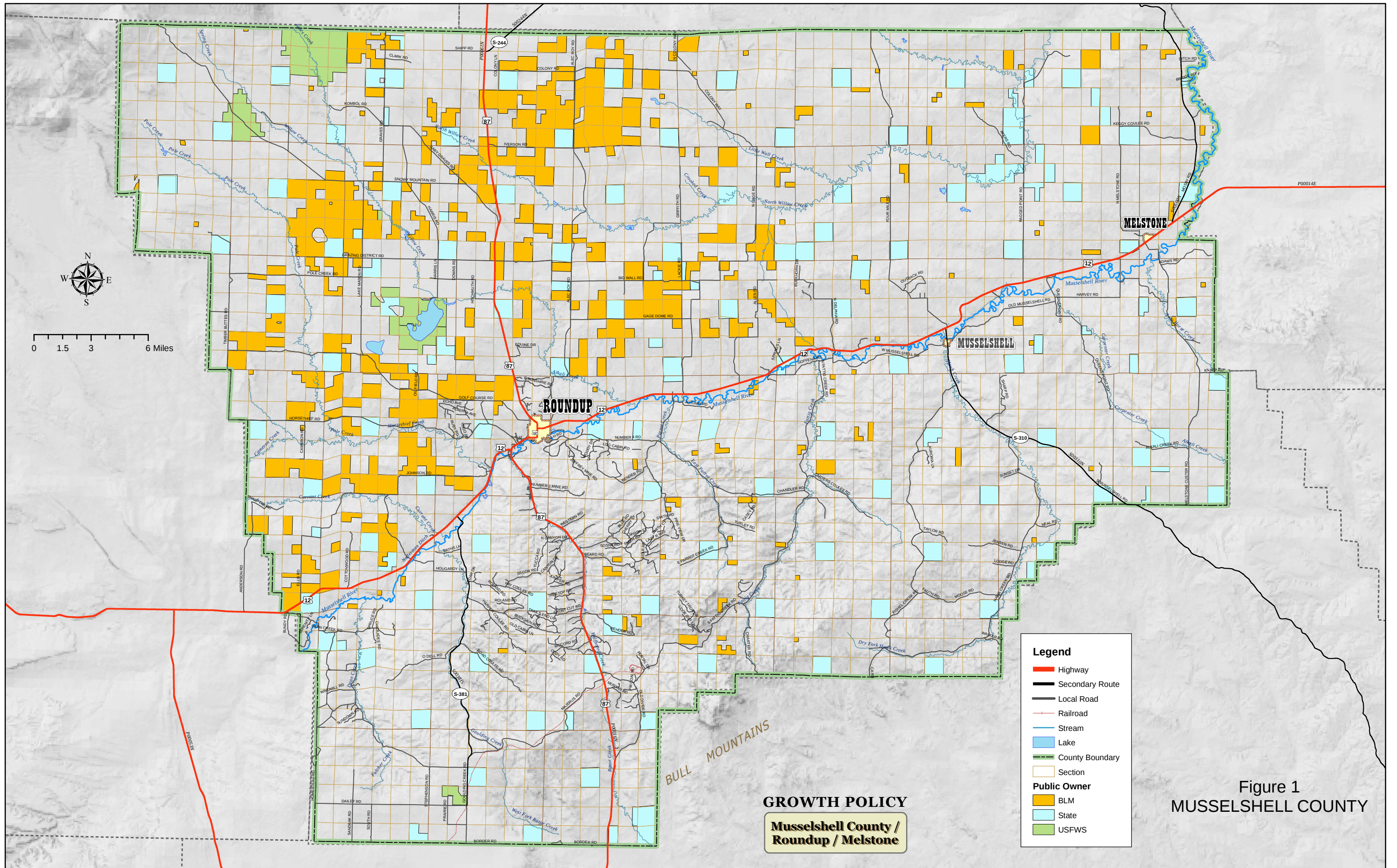
The Musselshell County 2010 Growth Policy Update covers the entire county, including the incorporated areas of Roundup and Melstone. A map of each jurisdictional area is shown in Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3. The unincorporated community of Musselshell is shown in Figure 4.

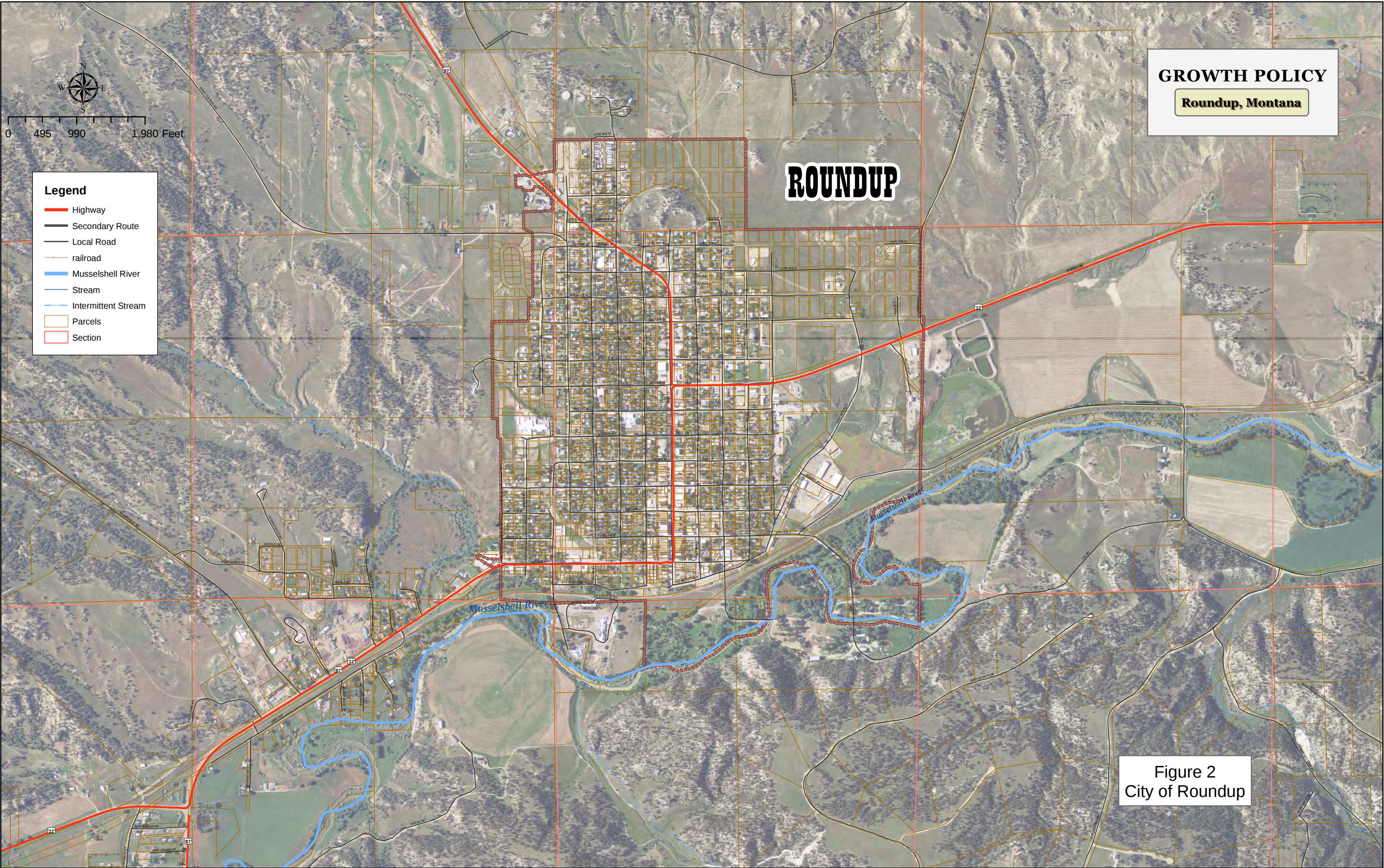
The public input process was initiated by the Planning Board in the early stage of the plan in order to provide ample opportunity for all voices to be heard prior to the formulation of goals, objectives and policies that provide guidance in the shaping of the implementation measures. The board solicited public opinion on a variety of issues primarily through a county wide needs assessment survey, a series of public meetings conducted in the Summer of 2010, and through information made available by the planning board and City, Town and County agencies. The report contains a listing of goals, objectives and policies developed by the planning board and adopted for use in implementing the Growth Policy. A summary of the needs survey used to help identify the goals and objectives is included in Appendix A.

As stated above, the Growth Policy is structured according to State of Montana planning legislation providing the county with a technically sound method for dealing with future change, and giving local leaders a reference document establishing policies which will help guide them according to the plan or "vision" of important assets to be retained in the future. Realizing the value of providing workable regulations and maintaining flexibility in the planning process, the law also requires that an implementation strategy be developed which includes a timetable for reviewing the plan at least once every 5 years and revising it if necessary.

The planning process is a systematic approach to problem solving at the local and regional level, and provides an opportunity to identify and promote policies that will allow the county and communities to achieve the goals and objectives of a vision for the future. The process follows a logical path that begins with a review of existing conditions, and continues by attempting to forecast anticipated changes and the need for services and facilities. Understanding changes and their impacts allows the county to establish a framework that will result in development that is in the best interest of its citizens. The framework provided

in the Growth Policy provides the necessary principles, criteria and policies to make logical, carefully considered decisions on matters that have a broad and lasting effect on the county and urban areas.





GROWTH POLICY

Roundup, Montana

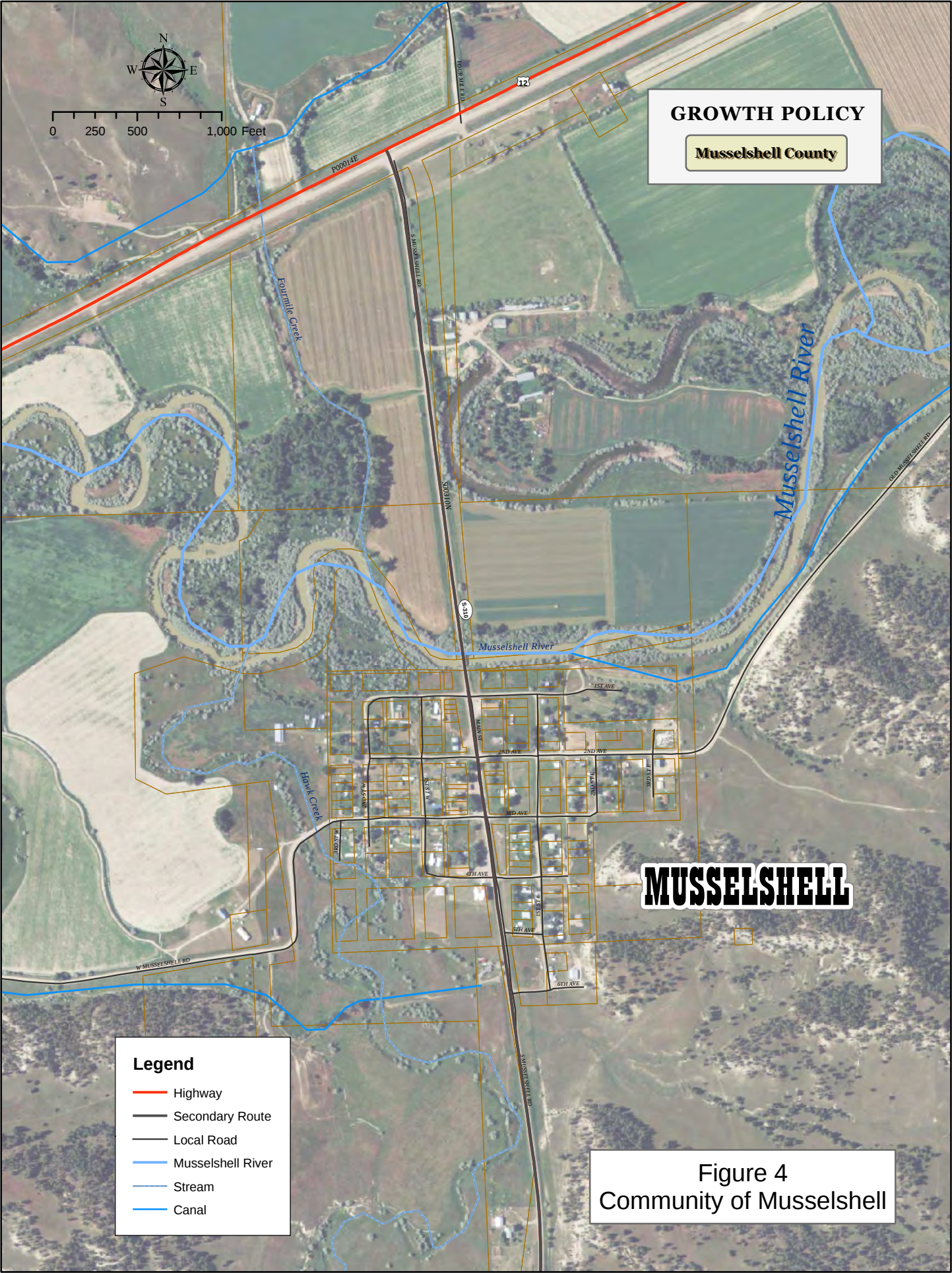
ROUNDUP

Legend

- Highway
- Secondary Route
- Local Road
- railroad
- Musselshell River
- Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Parcels
- Section

Figure 2
City of Roundup





GROWTH POLICY

Musselshell County

Legend

- Highway
- Secondary Route
- Local Road
- Musselshell River
- Stream
- Canal

Figure 4
Community of Musselshell



HISTORY

Preface

As Musselshell County prepares for its second century it is fitting we take a look back to examine the conditions and events that brought us to this point.

By the time it was created in 1911 the area now known as Musselshell County had already undergone major economic and population change. The economy evolved from its total dependency upon cattle to include a major mining presence, along with its attendant influences on the development and support of the urbanized areas of the county.

The population swelled as the economy expanded from land intensive cattle ranching to labor intensive coal mining. When the Homestead Act opened up federally owned land in the county to small farmers, Musselshell County saw another surge in population. The first U.S. Census that included a legally constituted Musselshell County (1920) counted over 12,000 residents in the county and 2,430 in the city of Roundup.

The practical reality of making a living on 160 acres of semi-arid Musselshell County ground coupled with a few years of below normal precipitation saw many a homesteader's dream come to an abrupt end. By the 1930 Census the county's population had dropped to 7,200, while the city of Roundup increased its population to 2,580. Underground coal mining was primarily responsible for increasing Roundup's population while continued hard times in Agriculture depleted the county population.

Economic depression, low agricultural commodity prices and drought continued to force people off the land so that by the 1940 U.S. Census only 5,700 residents were left in the county. The importance of coal to the Railroads boosted Roundup's population to 2,640.

The Second World War saw the classification of coal mining as an essential industry and helped increase Roundup's population to 2,860 by 1950, while the county lost approximately 300 residents during this time to fall to 5,400 people at census time.

The 1950's were a time of relative stability in Musselshell County and the City of Roundup. The coalmines were flourishing, Agriculture was holding its own and the Roundup business sector offered a full range of shops and services to city and county residents. Population did

not increase during this decade but it slowed its decline. By 1960 the population of Musselshell County was 4,900 and Roundup had 2,840 residents.

The population effects brought by the closure of the last Roundup coal mine in 1959 is clearly demonstrated by the Census figures for 1970. The city of Roundup lost over 700 residents in the 60's and the county dropped another 1,200 residents. The county counted the fewest residents ever in 1970, (3,700) a decrease of nearly 70% from its high water mark in 1920. (It may be of interest to note that every county in eastern Montana has lost significant population since 1920)

By the 1980 Census count Musselshell County had gained 700 people to total 4,400 residents. The city of Roundup remained unchanged at 2,120. Much of this increase in the county can be attributed to the opening up of sub-divided land to out of area buyers. A number of large ranches were sub divided and the parcels were marketed to buyers from all over the country.

In 1990 the county had again lost population and Roundup itself bore the effects of the scale back in the oilfields. The county's population fell to 4,100 while Roundup declined to 1,810 people.

The turn of the century saw an increase in population for both the county and Roundup.

Local History

Musselshell County was formed in 1911 from parts of Fergus, Meagher, and Yellowstone Counties; in 1920 part of its area was ceded to Golden Valley County. The county is named for the Musselshell River, which in turn was named by Lewis and Clark, probably because of mussel shells found along the river's banks.

Prior to the coming of the white man the Musselshell valley area was the home of the River Crow Indians. By the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty 1851 these Crows accepted a reservation including the area south of the Musselshell River and west of the Powder River.

Permanent white settlement of the Musselshell County area began in the early 1880's. One of the earliest settlers, James H. Hightower, in a 1939 letter to Mrs. W.W. Wetzel of Whitefish described early Musselshell County. (Hill was Hightower's partner on the NF Ranch.) Mr. Hightower wrote:

"Hightower and Hill settled on that ranch in August 1881. There were two men, Bill Berrigan and John Branigan, had settled or taken claim on the south side of the river. Berrigan was just opposite the NF Ranch. They came there in the fall of 1880. They were then supposed to be in Custer County. The Musselshell was the line between Custer County and Meagher County, although we were a short distance apart. I understand that Yellowstone County was cut off of Custer County that fall.

So the first winter, there were only Hightower and Hill and Berrigan and Branigan in that part of the country and the only settlers in what is now Musselshell County. Jim Hart and Bill Culver located a ranch 11 miles west up the river. There were two squaw men, had cabins at the mouth of Fattig creek. They were our nearest neighbors.

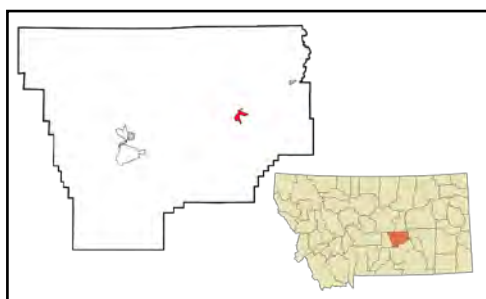
In the spring of '82 Hill and I proceeded to find a way to the Yellowstone. We started up Half Breed Creek and over the divide, down a draw onto Razor creek. We wanted to find Coulson, as there was a trading place there. Knowing nothing about the country, we were two days and a half making the trip. The old wagon tracks were the first road to what is now Billings. At Coulson we met McMillan and told him about the Musselshell. He came sometime during the summer or fall and made a claim for a ranch at the mouth of Halfbreed. Several men settled on the Musselshell by this time and we got together that fall and helped McMillan build two log shacks on his claim. He moved his family there in October '82. The railroad had come to Billings by July. T.C. Powers established a stage line in September from Billings to Ft. Benton, and established Lavina. We then petitioned for a post office and mail route from Lavina to Roundup. I proposed the name Roundup from the fact we had a roundup of cattle opposite the McMillan ranch on the north side of the river. McMillan was there only a few years. Gene Irvin bought him out and I remember in 1885. McMillan moved to Billings. I never saw him again."

James McMillan, whose wife in 1882 was probably the area's first white woman, also claims to have first named Roundup. The present site of this city is located north across the Musselshell River from the old site of the early day bar, store, and post office. A wood bridge was first constructed across the river in 1886 only to be washed out the following winter, one of the area's most severe. The present City of Roundup started as a coal camp, and the first buildings were a long, double-decked bunkhouse that would accommodate 100 miners and an eating place called "the Beanery". Although coal had been noted in the area as early as 1873 a party of 26 coal miners from the Milwaukee Road were the first miners to really get started. The first rail car was filled with coal September 25, 1908, and the complete railway through the area was finished in 1909. Roundup, only a year or two old in 1909, contained 1,500 people and incorporated at the youngest age of any city in the State. The city grew steadily and soundly, reaching a population of 2,434 in 1920 and 2,573 by 1930. The Roundup Record, forerunner of the present day Roundup Record Tribune, came out with its first issue April 3, 1908. The editor-publisher, A.W. Eiselein, continued putting out the area's news for over 50 years. Reviewing the first 50 years of the area's recorded happenings Mr. Eiselein considered as his biggest stories the creation of Musselshell County, the coming of the railroad, and the mass murder on Halfbreed Creek with the biggest story of all being the discovery of oil in 1919 in Devil's Basin, 18 miles north of Roundup.

The small mining communities of Klein, Gibbtown, Republic, and Farrelltown grew up near mines south of the old site of Roundup. Approximately 20 miles northeast of Roundup the Town of Melstone was established. Also located on the Milwaukee Road,

this town was named for an official of the Associated Press, Melvin E. Stone. Melstone serves local area agriculture and mineral fuel industries and has actually increased in size over the past 30 years contrary to population trends elsewhere in the county. The Melstone State Bank, now standing vacant, was robbed at gunpoint in 1920 and the crime wasn't resolved for two years. The small, unincorporated community of Musselshell lies between Roundup and Melstone. Musselshell was originally just known as "The Crossing" because of its location at the point where the old Fort Custer-Maginnis road crossed the Musselshell River. A trading post was established there in 1877 and a store and post office in 1885.

Source: *Musselshell County Comprehensive Plan 1973*.



POPULATION

Summary of Trends

Estimates and Projections

Musselshell County population has remained about the same over the last decade according to U.S. Census estimates. The County population is at approximately 4,550 and the incorporated areas of Roundup and Melstone have remained relatively constant accounting for 45% of the total.

Population projections developed by NPA Data Services indicate that the population is expected to increase over the next 20 years by 6.4% to 4,840 county-wide. The senior sector of the population accounted for 19.3% of the County population at the time of the 2000 Census and is predicted to increase significantly as a share of the total over the coming years to 27.9% by 2030. The population projections are illustrated in Figure 5 at the end of this section.

Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for 2008 showed that for all ages in Musselshell County, 18.1% were below the poverty level and the under age 18 category showed 31.3%. This compares to the state average of 14.1 % and 19.2 % respectively. The median household income for the County for 2008 was listed at \$34,318 compared to \$43,948 for the state. Corresponding SAIPE figures for 2003 (when the first Musselshell County Growth Policy was completed), showed a slightly lower percentage below poverty level for all ages as well as for the under 18 population group. There were 17.6% of all ages and 29.5% of persons under 18 estimated to be below the poverty line in 2003. Median household income was \$27,499 which shows that there was a slight improvement in median household income over the following five years. Although the data also indicates a slight increase in poverty over the five year period from 2003 to 2008, the amount of change is relatively insignificant since it is within the confidence interval of the data used to produce the estimates.

The following tables show the population estimates and projections for Musselshell County since the last census.

Recent Population Trends

Population 2000-2008	2000 Census	2008 (Estimate)	2009 (Estimate)	% Chg Since 2000
Musselshell County	4,497	4,508	4,600	2.3%
Melstone	136	136	-	0%
Roundup	1,931	1,922	-	-0.5%

Source: Population Division, US Census Bureau

Population Projection

Population 2000-2008	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	% Chg Since 2000
Musselshell County	4,550	4,610	4,670	4,740	4,840	+6.4%
Musselshell County age 65 and over	880 ¹	1,050	1,220	1,310	1,350 ²	+53.4%

Source: Demographic database of the 2008 regional economic projection series NPA Data Service, Inc.

1. 19.3% of total population in 2010

2. 27.9% of total population in 2030

Population Characteristics and Change

Since the 2003 Edition of the Musselshell County Growth Policy, there may have been some shifts in the population composition, but the details of population characteristics will not be known until the results of the 2010 Census are released. **The Growth Policy should be amended to include the results of the new census data when it is completed and the summary information has been published.** The population trends and characteristics for the County by age group and household type were summarized in the 2003 document showing population change from 1910 to 2000, age distribution, household types since 1980, and projections to 2030. This information is included in Appendix G at the back of this report. Additional published census data was included in Appendix B of the original document. The following is a list of highlights from the 2000 Census.

- Musselshell County residents are older and have fewer children under 5 than the state average.
- The County, the City of Roundup, and the Town of Melstone all declined significantly in population over the 80 year period from 1920 to 2000.
- Musselshell County and Roundup both increased in population from 1990 to 2000.
- Musselshell County was predicted to grow 23% by 2025. The latest census projection shows a lower growth rate at about 5.5 % from 2000 to 2025.
- The average household size in 2000 was 2.3 persons per household.

MUSSELSHELL COUNTY POPULATION

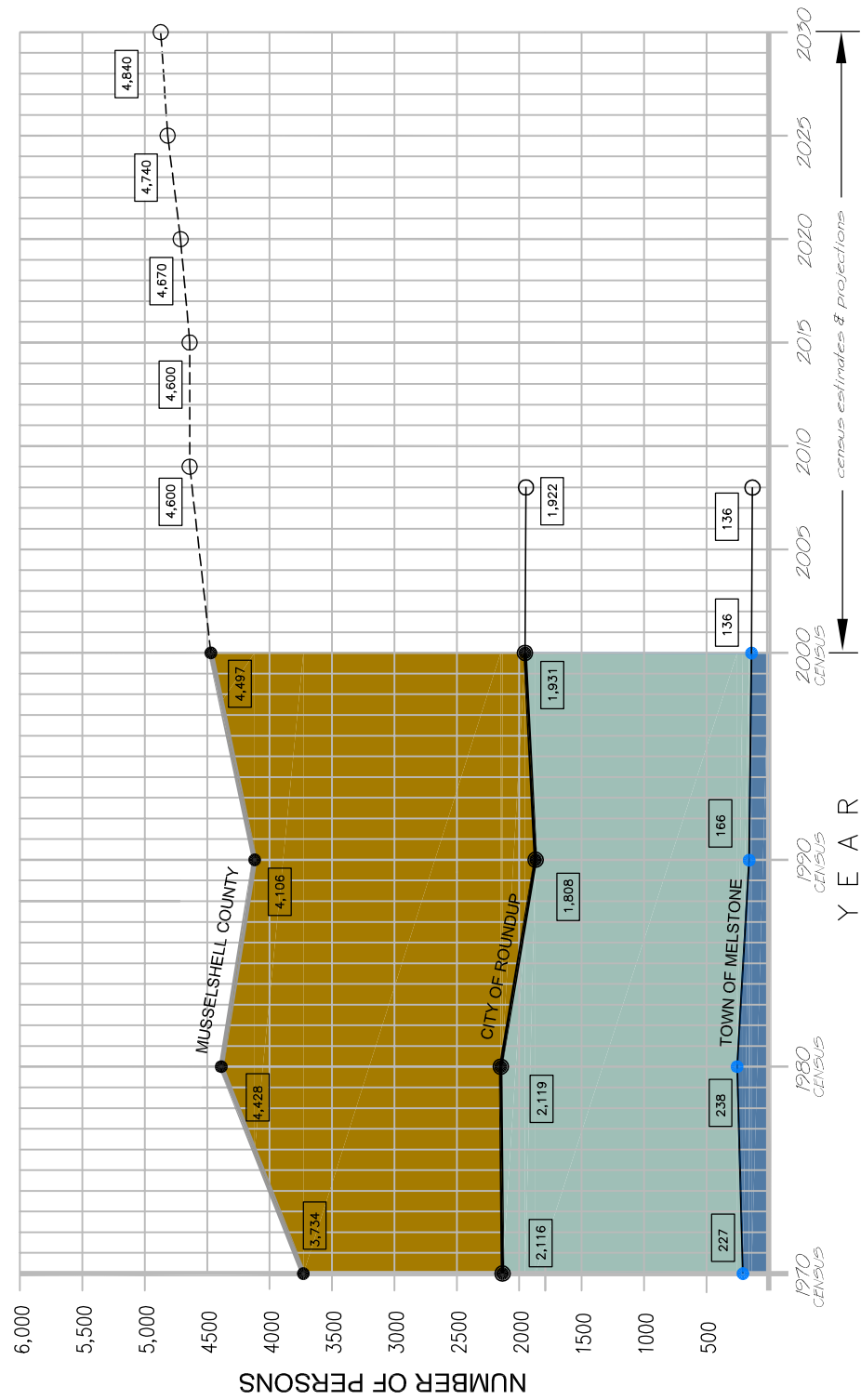


FIGURE 5
POPULATION TRENDS



LAND USE

Summary of Trends

Land Use in Musselshell County

Land use information provides insight into the character of the planning area in terms of predominant types of land use, distribution throughout the county, and density. Evaluation of the relationship of different types of land use to the physical features of the county, both natural and man-made, is an important reference to be used by local planning officials when assessing possible impacts from new development proposals, and when considering plans for preferred policies. The location and extent of existing public land, agricultural land, residential uses, and commercial or industrial areas has a profound effect on how future development will occur. Consideration of existing physical features, environmental constraints and marketing opportunities in conjunction with infrastructure demands helps to determine the suitability of a site for a particular type of development. The future community services and facilities, must in some measure, reflect the continuation and improvement of existing developments. The information in this section provides a general overview of the existing status of land development in Musselshell County, Roundup, and Melstone. Important ownerships that will continue to affect future land use decisions are also shown on the land use maps.

The mapping system used for presentation of information shown in the Growth Policy report is based on GIS (Geographic Information System) maps prepared using the Arc view 9.3 format. This format is compatible with the state GIS data base maintained by the Montana State Library for the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS). Data for land use, ownership, agriculture and natural resources was prepared using the Musselshell County GIS files and the NRIS data base as noted.

Musselshell County Land Use and Ownership

Musselshell County encompasses approximately 1,965 square miles and includes topography ranging from the rolling grasslands of the agricultural area to the rugged forested area of Bull Mountains in the southern part of the county. Agricultural land (including timber) accounts for most of the land area in Musselshell County. The lowlands and benches of the county are developed primarily for dry land crops with some mixed residential use, while relatively small areas in the vicinity of the principal drainages are managed for irrigated crops with some grazing and livestock production. Coal mining is

currently on-going in the Bull Mountains to the south of Roundup. Urban-oriented use of the land outside the county seat of Roundup is principally confined to settlements along the main transportation routes of U.S. Highway 12 and U.S. Highway 87, and includes the incorporated community of Melstone, as well as the rural community of Musselshell. Roundup is by far the largest developed area in the county. The other communities are small rural centers providing basic services for the local agricultural population. The developed areas are composed of a mixture of residential and commercial uses as well some public or semi-public parcels as shown on the existing land use maps at the end of this section of the document. Most of the Commercial development is centralized along the main highway corridor and the adjoining main streets in the City of Roundup.

Public Ownership

The largest public ownership in Musselshell County is USDI Bureau of Land Management at over 107,000 acres. State Government is the second largest classification, and includes over 82,000 acres scattered uniformly throughout Musselshell County accounting for approximately 6.5% of the county area. Private land accounts for 1,052,499 acres or 83.7% the county total. The distribution of public land owners is shown in Figure-16 which also show a private land developed for agricultural purposes.

Ownership is summarized in the following table.

Musselshell County Land Ownership

Owner	Acres	Sq. Miles	% of Total
Private	1,052,449		83.7%
USDI Bureau of Land Management	107,208		8.5%
State Government	82,377		6.5%
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	10,524		0.8%
Right of Way	1,408		0.1%
Local Government	1,315		0.1%
Water	1,289		0.1%
USDA Forest Service	675		<0.1%
US Department of Interior	484		<0.1%
Undetermined	109		<0.1%
US Government	13		<0.1%
Grand Total	1,257,850	1,965.4	

Note: Data summary based on cadastral data base for this geographic area. Statistics include the entire parcel if it intersects the county buffer.

Agricultural Land

Data for the Musselshell County planning area is available from the Montana Cadastral Mapping Project and the State Department of Revenue for parcel ownership and use (CAMA files). It contains information showing the location and size of parcels for several categories of agricultural land. The general distribution of privately owned agricultural land is shown in Figure 16. Agriculture is by far the predominant form of land development in the county and is primarily based on dry land farm practices. Land considered to be prime or important farm land based on soils data is very limited as a percentage of all land in the agricultural use classification for Musselshell County. The agricultural uses illustrated on the existing land use map provide a general reference for agricultural land distribution. As shown in the following table, grazing land is the largest agricultural land class with over 788,000 acres or 65.7% of the total on private land. Timber is the second largest agricultural use with approximately 256,000 acres or 21.4% of the total. Only 0.4% of the private agricultural parcels have over half of the parcel in irrigation while a total of 12.5% or 111,225 acres are classified as predominantly fallow cropland, nonqualified agriculture, or wild hay parcels. More detailed data for individual parcels is available through the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) including information on average production, soils and land capability. This data can be referenced for background information on specific development proposals in the county as needed.

Musselshell County Predominant Agricultural Land Use Classification on Private Lands

Agricultural Use Type	Acres	Percent of Total Area
Grazing	788,594	65.7%
Timber	256,175	21.4%
Fallow Crop	111,225	9.3%
NonQualAg	28,411	2.4%
WildHay	10,008	0.8%
Irrigated	5,367	0.4%

Musselshell County Developed Area

The developed area of Musselshell County is centered in the City of Roundup. It is located in the west central part of the County at the junction of U.S. Highway 12 and U.S. 87 near the Musselshell River which runs just south of the city. Melstone is near the eastern edge of the County on U.S. 12 and the community of Musselshell is located between the two incorporated areas at the junction of U.S. 12 and Secondary 310. General land use patterns for the cities and towns were mapped as part of the overall planning effort for Musselshell County using parcel data available from the County and the Montana Department of Revenue. This data allows for development of an updated land use map based on broad classifications used for tax purposes, and provides a reliable format that can be used to

update land use information in the future to evaluate trends. The Existing Land Use Maps for Roundup, Melstone, and Musselshell are shown in Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9. The rural unincorporated community of Musselshell is shown in Figure 9.

The general land use patterns for the communities of Musselshell County are described in the following section and the spatial relationships of selected land use categories are shown on the existing land use maps. The maps are an important reference for development of land use plans in the future for each community. The general categories of land use shown on the maps are based on information contained in the Musselshell County GIS system and in the statewide cadastral files available from NRIS (Natural Resource Information System). The land use categories areas defined by the Montana Department of Revenue and are not related to zoning. They are listed as follows:

EXISTING LAND USE CATEGORIES:

- Residential Single Family
- Residential Multi Family
- Residential Mobile Home
- Vacant Urban
- Commercial
- Industrial

PUBLIC CATEGORIES: (Exempt Properties)

- School District
- Local Government
- State Government
- U.S. Government Agencies

Roundup Land Use

The City of Roundup is the largest developed area in Musselshell County and is ideally located on the main transportation corridor to provide public and commercial services for the rural area. The city center is near the intersection of two of the main highway routes crossing eastern Montana, U. S. 12 and U.S. 87. Development outside of Roundup has occurred in the vicinity of the main highway corridors, with more limited activity occurring southeast of the city on large tracts of subdivided land. In general, the residential development in the Roundup vicinity has changed only slightly over recent years with most of the change occurring outside the city limits. Land Use for the Roundup area is shown in Figure 7. The map shows general conditions in 2009 using available electronic data for land parcel descriptions from the County GIS data base.

Roundup Area Residential Development

Within the city limits, single family housing is distributed fairly uniformly throughout the city outside of the main highway corridor (the business district). Multifamily units are mixed in with single family development in several areas of the city, but are generally more concentrated in the area closest to the central business district. As shown on the Existing Land Use Map (Figure 7), part of the residential community is identified as mobile home

development in the Department of Revenue records, and there is also a separate classification for mobile home parks (a subset of the commercial class) According to Census data for 2000, there were approximately 121 multi-family units and 109 mobile home units in the city at that time. Lots occupied by a single family dwelling at the time of the 2008 Department of Revenue parcel records update are shown as residential single family lots on the maps. The map should be edited and updated periodically to accurately depict the pattern of residential use around Roundup.

Residential land outside the city limits is primarily concentrated on large tracts of land except for parts of the residential area west of Roundup in the vicinity of Thistle Drive and Mine Avenue. These smaller parcels are shown on the land use map of the Roundup area.

Vacant parcels in residential areas are widely scattered and there is a concentration of vacant tracts in the northeast area of the city according to state records. There may be development restrictions on some of the tracts due to terrain or other limitations. According to the land use map, there appears to be a some opportunity for infill of new housing on existing residential lots within the existing city limits of Roundup.

Roundup Area Commercial Development

The old commercial district of Roundup is concentrated within a two block deep area near the highway corridor through the center of the city, and extends down to Railroad Avenue East on the south side of the city. This district is characterized by a mixture of traditional core commercial uses ranging from banks, hardware and clothing stores, to bars, restaurants, motels, and a variety of specialty retail and service shops. The County Courthouse is also located in this district along Main Street (Highway 12/87). The highway strip contains typical highway commercial uses including motels, service/convenience stations, and restaurants. Additional commercial development is located along U.S. 12 further west toward the U.S. 87 junction.

Roundup Area Industrial Development

Industrial use is limited to the area near Alec Roy Road South and southwest of the city near the County Shop. There is an active saw mill located in this area on the north side of the highway. The classification includes warehousing, utility companies, and agricultural support services. There are no intensive heavy industrial uses in Roundup.

Town of Melstone Land Use

The Town of Melstone is located approximately 35 miles east of Roundup on U.S. Highway 12. The Town is on the north side of the highway right of way, and it is surrounded by agricultural land. Land within the town limits has been developed along a typical rectangular street grid. Figure 8 shows the existing land use in the Melstone area.

Residential Development

The residential land in the Town of Melstone is interspersed with other uses between the highway and 6th Avenue West. There are a significant number of parcels scattered throughout the platted area that are classified vacant land by the Department of Revenue,

many of which appear to be used for storage of agricultural equipment and commodities. There is only one multi-family unit shown on the map, and only four parcels occupied by mobile homes. There has been no significant new residential development in or around the Town in recent times. Census records indicate that there has been very little residential construction in Melstone over the last three decades.

Vacant parcels in residential areas are widely scattered and number approximately 50 according to 2009 air photo information and state records. Many of the parcels may not be suitable or available for development however, this shows that there may be an opportunity for infill of new housing on existing residential lots in Melstone.

Commercial Development

Commercial development in Melstone is centered primarily near the highway. This small business area contains several commercial uses including a restaurant, motel, and auto service stations.

Industrial Development

There is no industrial development in the Town of Melstone.

Community of Musselshell Land Use (Unincorporated Community)

The rural community of Musselshell is a small unincorporated population center located about 12 miles west of Melstone. The community is located on land south of U.S. 12 along Secondary Highway 310. The community provides very limited commercial and public services. See Figure 9 for a layout of the community.

Existing Development

Single family housing is the predominant form of land use and occupies most of the land area along the local semi-improved roads. Multi-family development is not a part of the local housing supply, but there are several mobile homes developed on single lots in the developed areas. Vacant parcels are widely scattered throughout the main residential areas and there is a significant area of local government property in the community.

Public or Government Use

This land use category includes Government Buildings and Facilities, Schools, Parks, Churches, Hospital, Nursing Homes, Library and Fraternal or similar organizations. These public uses are located on parcels categorized for various government agencies and include exempt property shown on the existing land use maps for Musselshell County and for each of the population centers.

The primary Musselshell County public and government uses are centered in Roundup at the county courthouse and the City office building. Melstone provides access to local government functions at the local Community Center building. The land used for high schools, elementary level schools, parkland, churches and other public or semi-public uses

is located on the existing land use maps. Public and semi-public parcels are classified as exempt property, and are further divided to differentiate between School District, Local Government, and other State and Federal Public Agency land. (See Figures 6 through 9).

Public facilities in Musselshell County that are located outside of the cities and towns are primarily recreational or cultural facilities managed by state and federal government agencies, or county facilities used by the county road department for operations and storage of maintenance equipment. The County Fairgrounds is located on the south end of Roundup near the Musselshell River. The municipal golf course is situated just northwest of Roundup near US Highway 87. It is a 9-hole course and is well supported by the local population and maintained in very good condition. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages a large area northwest of Roundup in the Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge providing a three unit, 1,288 acre refuge offering wildlife viewing and hunting. BLM land 13 miles east of Roundup, referred to as Asparagus Point, consists of 160 acres along the Musselshell River used for hunting, fishing, camping, bird watching, and river floating. Important public uses are identified on the Existing Land Use maps at the end of the land use section.

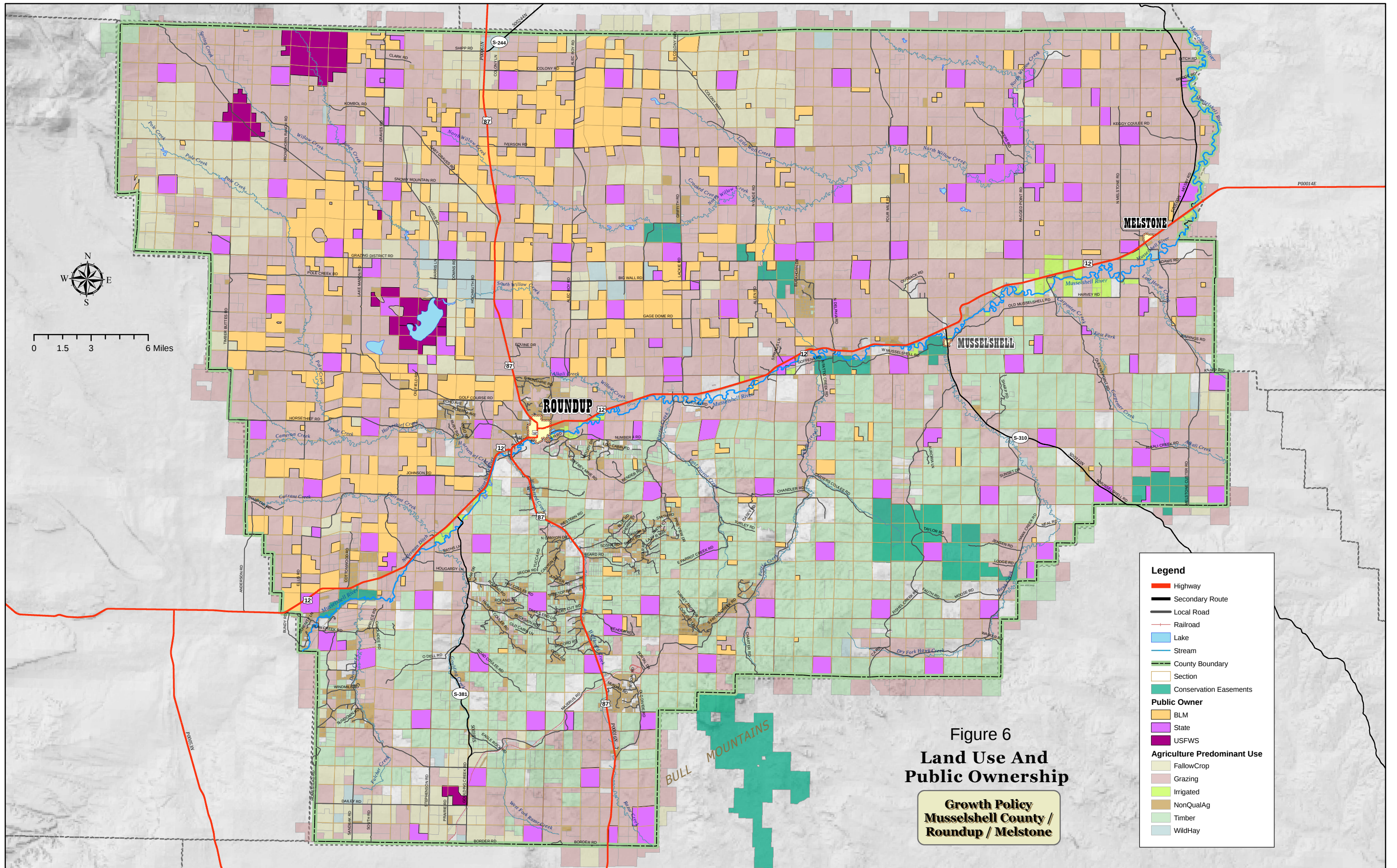
Subdivisions

The long term trend of low to moderate demand for more residential land has not changed significantly in recent years but shows a slightly increasing trend.

Subdivision activity within Musselshell County for the last seven years has been county wide.

It is anticipated that both subdivision and surveying activities will remain constant for the next several years due to the increase in fuel costs, land values and some new development in the Bull Mountains

Ground water, flood plain and land use compatibility issues are critical considerations for future subdivisions in the planning area as well as effects on existing municipal services in Roundup and Melstone. The feasibility of expanding municipal sewer, water, and streets in the vicinity of these communities must also be considered as new development proposals are submitted. The proposed regional water project, the Central Montana Regional water Authority (CMRWA) will provide an added incentive for new development not only in the Roundup area, but also for other preferred growth areas in Musselshell County.



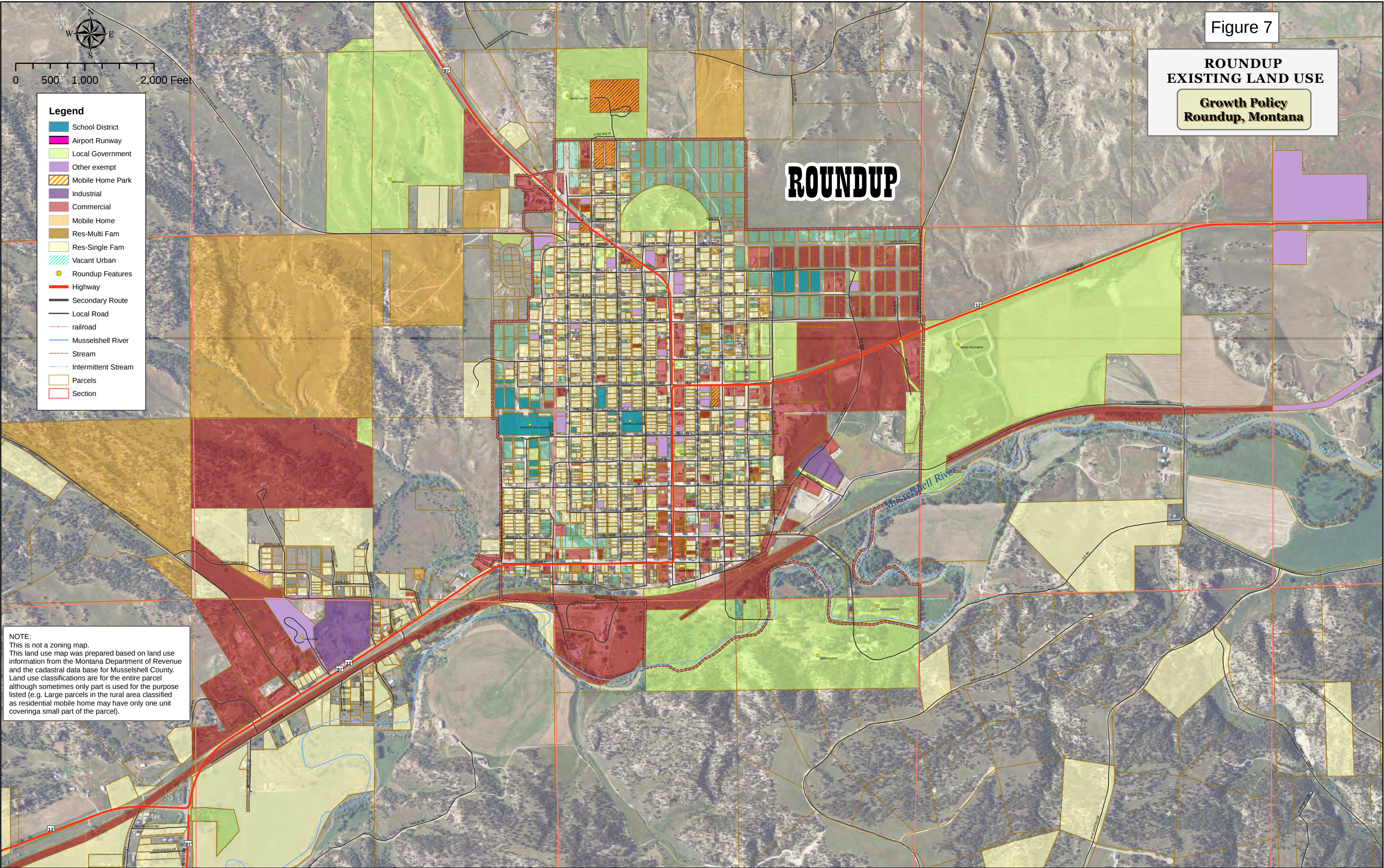


Figure 8

Existing Land Use

Growth Policy
Melstone, Montana

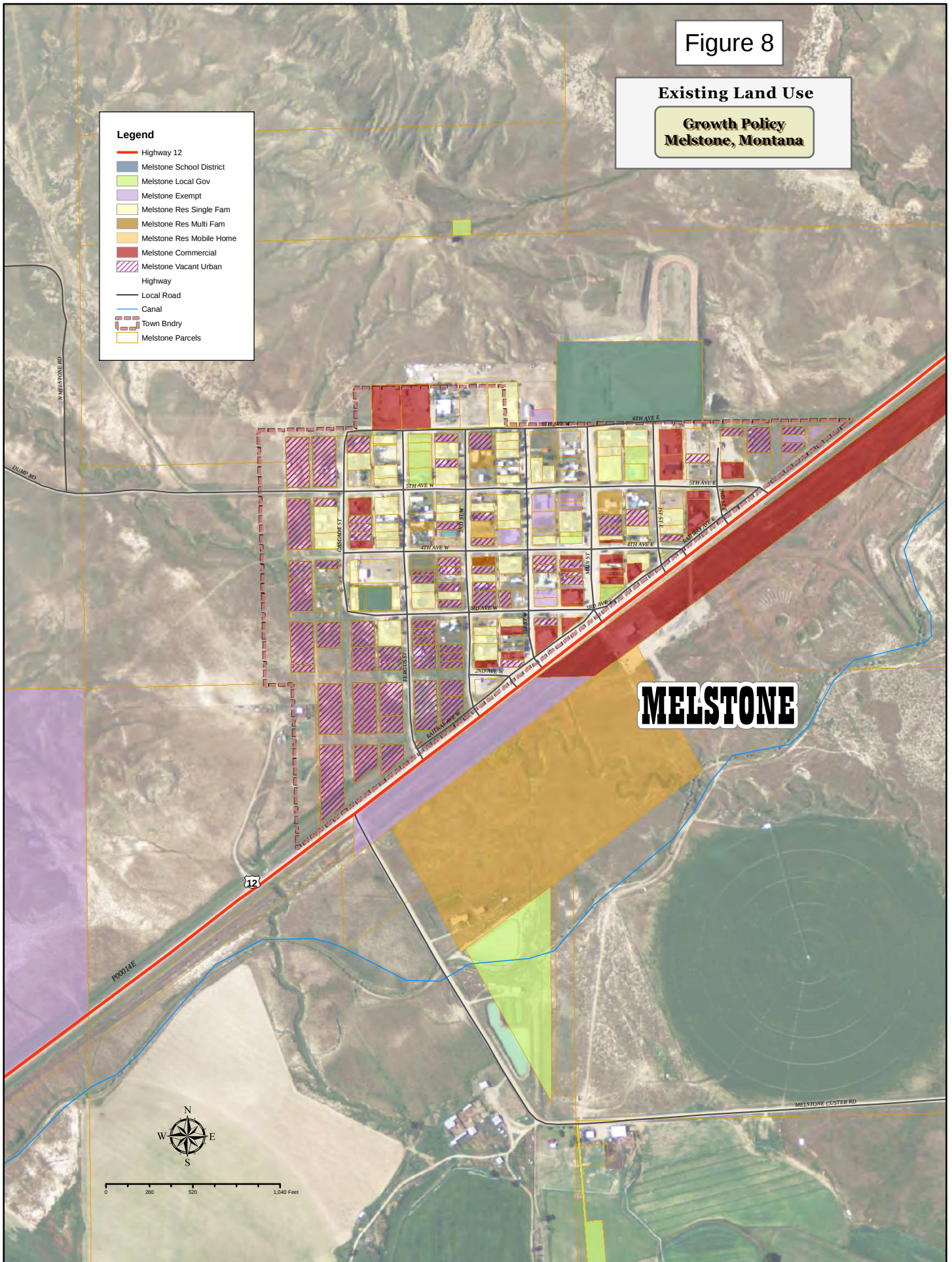
Legend

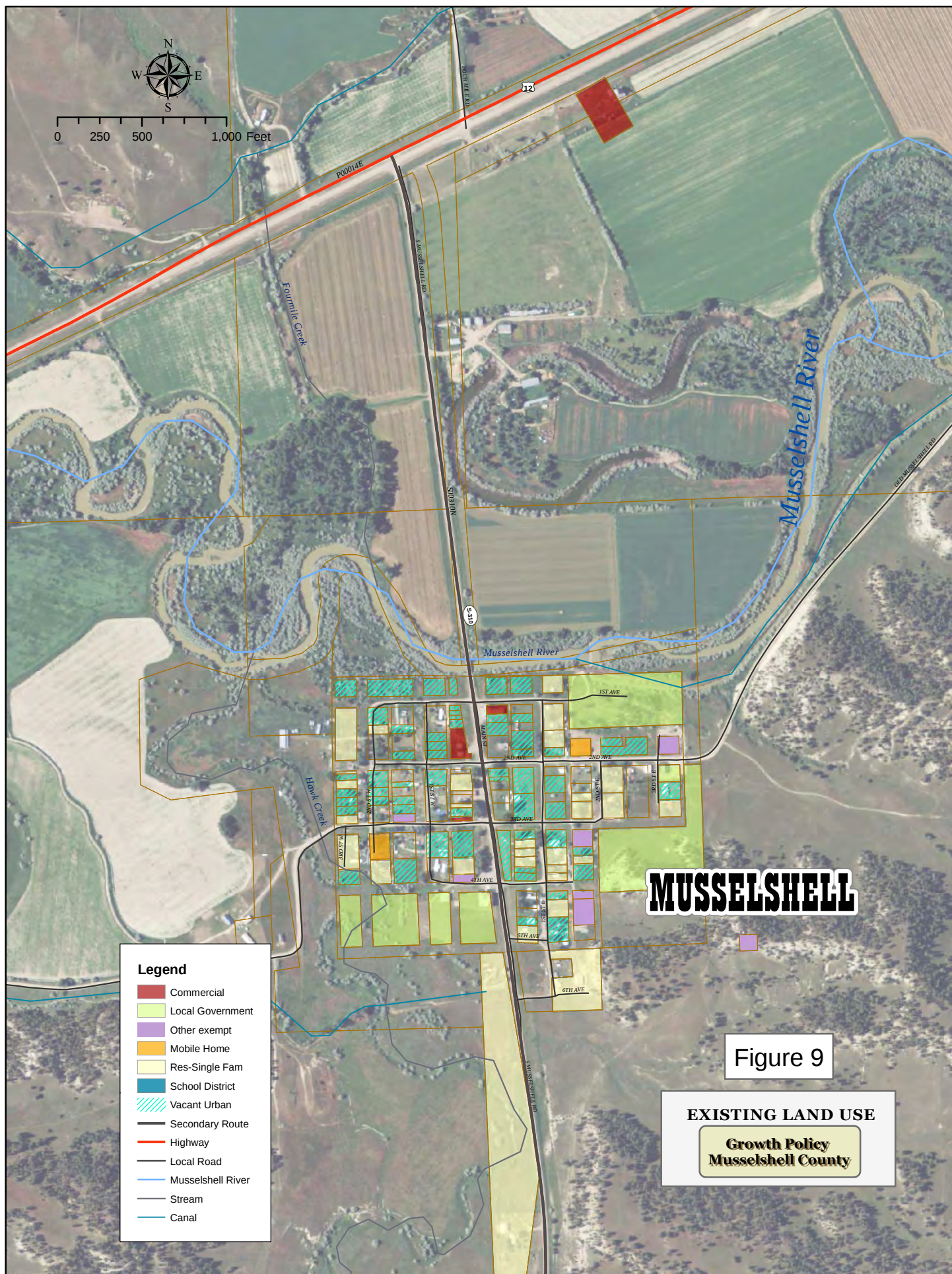
- Highway 12
- Melstone School District
- Melstone Local Gov
- Melstone Exempt
- Melstone Res Single Fam
- Melstone Res Multi Fam
- Melstone Res Mobile Home
- Melstone Commercial
- Melstone Vacant Urban
- Highway
- Local Road
- Canal
- Town Bndry
- Melstone Parcels

MELSTONE



0 250 500 1,040 Feet







HOUSING

Summary of Trends

Estimates and Projections

Housing unit estimates for Musselshell County indicate that there has likely been a slight reduction in the total number of units since 2000. The Census Bureau annual estimates show that in 2008 there were 2,295 housing units compared to 2,317 in 2000. This is a change of -1% over the 8 year period.

The City of Roundup had 978 housing units in 2000 according to the Census and the Town of Melstone had 87. Current housing estimates for geographic areas below the county level are not available, but if we assume that the incorporated areas followed the same trend as the rest of the county, then the 2008 housing count would be 968 units for Roundup and 86 for Melstone.

Housing unit projections have not been completed for Musselshell County, but it is reasonable to assume that the total number of housing units needed in the future is closely tied to the predicted population level. The population is forecast at a 6.4% increase over the period from 2000 to 2030. In addition, the need for housing must also account for replacement of dilapidated and sub-standard units and could also be affected by elevated activity in production at the Signal Peak Coal Mine or possible power generation or liquid fuels projects.

Housing Characteristics and Needs

There have been several housing surveys completed in the County since the last census. In 2002 – 2003 the Eastern Montana Consortium conducted a Housing and Community Needs Assessment Survey in Musselshell County; a Community Needs Assessment for a six county area including Musselshell County was completed by District 6 HRDC in 2007; and housing surveys were conducted by District 6 HRDC in 2007 for home sales, rentals, and structural condition in the Roundup area. The results of the surveys are summarized in the following section and further information is provided in the City of Roundup Housing Plan. The housing plan is included as an appendix to this document (see Appendices Table of Contents).

Housing and Community Needs Assessment Survey (2002-2003)

Housing needs identified by priority were rated in the following order:

- Single family homes for rent
- More affordable rentals (all types)
- Apartments for rent
- Independent living housing for the elderly
- Assisted living facility
- Single family for purchase

Many respondents were in favor of applying for grant or loan assistance for housing rehabilitation and assistance for first time home buyers.

Community Needs Assessment (2007)

27% of respondents indicated their home was in need of serious repair

41% indicated only minor repairs are needed

Priorities for housing needs were ranked in the following order:

- Heating & home weatherization
- Senior home repair
- Affordable home ownership
- Affordable rentals
- New housing

Housing Survey (2007)

Realtor Survey – Housing Sales and Finance (2006 sales)

- A total of 17 homes were sold in 2006.
- Average home price was \$108,784.
- Homes were on the market for an average of 3.75 months.
- Realtors indicated an average of 35 inquiries that could not find suitable or affordable homes.
- 36% of buyers used conventional financing, 21% used other methods including borrowing from family members or against owned property, 16% used FHA financing, 14% used cash, and 13% used contract for deed.

Rental Survey – Roundup Landlords (131 units)

- Rental apartments accounted for 39% of the units, 24% were rental houses, 15% mobile homes, and 20% mobile home lots.
- 70% of the rental houses were in the range of \$300 to \$500 per month.
- 59% of the apartments rented for \$300 to \$400 per month.
- 70% of apartments were in the 20 to 40 year age category.
- 56% of houses were in the 50 to 60 year age category.
- There were 25 subsidized rentals included in the survey
- One apartment complex with 50 subsidized rental units for seniors and handicapped was not included in the survey.

Structural Condition Survey – (Windshield survey of 797 units in Roundup)

- Of 797 homes surveyed, 36 or 4.5% were considered dilapidated or in need of substantial repair.
- The survey was divided into four sections to help identify problem housing areas.
- The southeast sector had the highest percentage of substandard housing at 43%.
- The northeast and northwest sectors had less than 9% of the total rated as substandard.



Housing needs identified as priorities by the Housing Advisory Committee are:

1. Housing Rehabilitation in the southeast and southwest sectors of the city – replacement housing projects can be accomplished following demolition. Funding programs should be used such as CDBG, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Montana Home Ownership Network, and USDA Housing Preservation Grant Program.
2. Affordability for housing purchase or rent – assistance for first time home buyers through the Single Family Pilot Program. A Phase II housing project looking at renovation of the upper levels of downtown buildings may be considered.



ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Summary of Trends

Agriculture and other extractive industries including coal mining, oil and gas, and timber are the dominant contributing factors to the local economy and will continue to control economic conditions in the foreseeable future. Coal mining activity has increased in recent years and should provide additional revenue for both public and private sectors in Musselshell County. Although the power plant envisioned in past years has not become a reality, coal resources appear to be sufficient to make mining a reliable source of income along with agriculture, oil and gas and timber.

Income and Employment

Total personal income (TPI) for Musselshell County has steadily increased since 2003, but at an average rate less than the State of Montana. In 2008 the County had a TPI of \$106,826* and ranked 39th in the state. This reflects an average annual growth rate of 4.8% over the 5 year period compared to 6.3% for the state. The highest increase during the period was from 2006 to 2007 when the County grew by 7.7% or 1% above the state rate for that year.

Total personal income includes not only earnings from employment, but also transfer receipts and a category for dividends, interest, and rent. The Bureau of Economic Analysis data for recent years (2008 is the latest available) shows that earnings income as a percent of total has risen slightly since the 2000 level of 41.5% to 45.6% in 2008. Over the period from 2003 to 2008, dividends, rent and interest averaged 22.5% of the TPI and transfer payments averaged 29.1 %. These figures show that income from earnings was highest in 2005 at 52% of total personal income, but has generally leveled off instead of continually declining as it did from 1970 to 2000. Transfer payments still represent nearly one third of the total as was the case in 2000 according to data in the original growth policy. The following table summarizes the trend in TPI from 2003 to 2008.

Total Personal Income (TPI) - 2003-2008 (in thousands)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TPI	84,696	88,727	91,611	96,787	104,400	106,826
Net Earnings	(46.5%)	(50.3%)	(52.0%)	(48.6%)	(47.5%)	(45.6%)
Dividends, Interest & Rent	(26.2%)	(21.7%)	(19.6%)	(21.8%)	(22.9%)	(22.7%)
Transfer Payments	(27.3%)	(28.0%)	(28.4%)	(29.6%)	(29.6%)	(31.7%)

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, CA1-3, CA05N

Employment data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that total employment has gone up since the year 2000 from 2,115 employees to 2,143 in 2008. Nonfarm employment accounts for 83 % of the total which is very close to the same level recorded in 2000 and farm and nonfarm proprietors continue to represent about 44% of all employment, indicating that there has not been a shift in major industry employment, at least up to 2008. Some increase in mine employment has occurred over the period from 2003 through 2008 as shown in the table below. It should be noted that 2010 estimates place full time mining employees in the county at 260. The top five industry sectors for employment in Musselshell County in 2008 were government, services, health care, retail trade and construction.

Total Full-time and Part-time Employment – by NAICS Industry

LineTitle	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total employment	2015	2024	2037	2066	2042	2143
Wage and salary employment	1151	1156	1166	1185	1138	1200
Proprietors employment	864	868	871	881	904	943
Farm proprietors employment	302	300	303	303	320	321
Nonfarm proprietors employment 2/	562	568	568	578	584	622
Farm employment	353	351	351	350	364	367
Nonfarm employment	1662	1673	1686	1716	1678	1776
Private employment	1364	1380	1396	1428	1385	1496
Forestry, fishing, and related activities	58	58	57	56	56	58
Mining	75	103	117	118	72	105
Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Construction	145	137	146	131	128	157
Manufacturing	41	51	47	53	51	55
Wholesale trade	34	32	34	34	34	38
Retail trade	182	180	174	181	179	172
Transportation and warehousing	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Information	27	23	17	18	17	18
Finance and insurance	42	41	41	42	44 (D)	
Real estate and rental and leasing	52	61	57	67	76 (D)	
Professional, scientific, and technical services	(D)	(D)	65	60	66	71
Management of companies and enterprises	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative and waste services	(D)	(D)	23	27	27	34
Educational services	(D)	(D)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)
Health care and social assistance	(D)	(D)	178	179	178	175
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	44	45	44	41 (D)	(D)	
Accommodation and food services	100	100	102	129 (D)	(D)	
Other services, except public administration	213	208	212	214	218	223
Government and government enterprises	298	293	290	288	293	280
Federal, civilian	17	15	13	13	16	15
Military	24	23	22	22	22	23
State and local	257	255	255	253	255	242
State government	32	34	38	31	31	16
Local government	225	221	217	222	224	226

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce

CA25N Footnotes <http://www.bea.gov/regional/docs/footnotes.cfm?tablename=CA25N>

Regional Economic Information System

Bureau of Economic Analysis

The average wage per job in Musselshell County has increased from \$17,697 in 2000 to \$26,110 in 2008. This is an increase of 47.5 % over the period. The State of Montana average wage per job over the same period went from \$24,172 to \$33,299, an increase of 37.8%. The data shows that, although the county wages increased at a higher rate, they are still significantly below the state average.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, CA34

The earnings in the agricultural industry have declined in recent years due to increase production costs while farm employment has remained relatively constant. Overall, the agricultural industry continues as an important fundamental contributor to the county economy in spite of the difficulty in maintaining a profitable operation year after year. Total net income has been showing negative numbers in recent years as shown in the following table.

Farm Income and Expenses

LineTitle	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cash receipts from marketings (\$000)	17012	19183	19514	19332	21348	22577
Cash receipts: livestock and products	14045	15858	15646	16006	15699	17585
Cash receipts: crops	2967	3325	3868	3326	5649	4992
Other income	5081	3842	5258	3986	3641	4150
Government payments	3136	2309	3432	2174	2048	2352
Imputed and miscellaneous income received 1/	1945	1533	1826	1812	1593	1798
Total production expenses	23091	22319	25308	27593	29629	31818
Feed purchased	1858	1300	1259	1379	1712	1572
Livestock purchased	1941	2060	2730	3612	4098	4086
Seed purchased	291	234	272	242	186	209
Fertilizer and lime (incl. ag. chemicals 1978-fwd.)	754	805	980	1013	1264	1589
Petroleum products purchased	1442	1596	1918	2049	2408	2812
Hired farm labor expenses 2/	2135	2235	2222	2325	2528	2420
All other production expenses 3/	14670	14089	15927	16973	17433	19130
Value of inventory change	-376	-384	1260	-799	4239	-573
Value of inventory change: livestock	-696	-791	909 (L)		4353 (L)	
Value of inventory change: crops	509	344	469	-896	-130	-523
Value of inventory change: materials and supplies	-189	63	-118	109 (L)	(L)	
Total cash receipts and other income	22093	23025	24772	23318	24989	26727
less: Total production expenses	23091	22319	25308	27593	29629	31818
Realized net income	-998	706	-536	-4275	-4640	-5091
plus: Value of inventory change	-376	-384	1260	-799	4239	-573
Total net income including corporate farms	-1374	322	724	-5074	-401	-5664
less: Net income of corporate farms	-505	76	135	-1498	-111	-1546
plus: Statistical adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total net farm proprietors' income	-869	246	589	-3576	-290	-4118
plus: Farm wages and perquisites	1341	1359	1493	1394	1314	1245
plus: Farm supplements to wages and salaries	172	185	170	163	178	182
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	644	1790	2252	-2019	1202	-2691

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce

CA45 Footnotes <http://www.bea.gov/regional/docs/footnotes.cfm?tablename=CA45>

Regional Economic Information System

Bureau of Economic Analysis

'April 2010'

The number of farms and total acreage in farms for Musselshell County actually increased from 2002 to 2007 according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Crop sales and livestock sales both increased over the 5 year period and together went up by approximately 50% as shown in the following table.

Musselshell County Montana Agricultural Profile

	2007	2002	% change
Number of Farms	373	319	+ 17
Land in Farms	1,133,030 acres	1,033,572 acres	+ 10
Average Size of Farm	3,038 acres	3,240 acres	- 6
Market Value of Products Sold	\$23,560,000	\$15,752,000	+ 50
Crop Sales \$4,991,000 (21 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$18,569,000 (79 percent)			
Average Per Farm	\$63,165	\$49,381	+ 28
Government Payments	\$2,011,000	\$2,126,000	- 5
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$17,796	\$19,325	- 8

Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

Wheat continues as the number one crop in the County with 39,900 acres planted in 2008. The top 5 crops are wheat, hay, barley, oats, and corn for silage. On average, there has not been a significant change in the crop yields or total acreage since the 1997 Census of Agriculture, although annual fluctuations are common. Acreage and yields for each crop are shown in the following table from the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Musselshell County Data - Crops											
Commodity _↑_	Practice	Year	State	County	District	Planted All Purposes	Harvested	Yield	Production	Yield per Net Seeded Acre	Net Seeded
Wheat All	Total For Crop	2003	Montana	Musselshell	50	36,300 acres	28,100 acres	25.9 bushel	727,000 bushel	20 bushel	36,300 acres
Wheat All	Total For Crop	2004	Montana	Musselshell	50	32,800 acres	32,000 acres	22.1 bushel	708,000 bushel	21.6 bushel	32,800 acres
Wheat All	Total For Crop	2005	Montana	Musselshell	50	35,000 acres	32,700 acres	26.8 bushel	876,000 bushel	25 bushel	35,000 acres
Wheat All	Total For Crop	2006	Montana	Musselshell	50	40,800 acres	28,800 acres	18.3 bushel	528,000 bushel	14.7 bushel	36,000 acres
Wheat All	Total For Crop	2007	Montana	Musselshell	50	36,800 acres	33,800 acres	24.8 bushel	837,000 bushel	23.9 bushel	35,000 acres
Wheat All	Total For Crop	2008	Montana	Musselshell	50	39,900 acres	29,100 acres	20.5 bushel	603,000 bushel	15 bushel	39,900 acres
Corn For Grain	Total For Crop	2008	Montana	Musselshell	50	500 acres	200 acres	50 bushel	10,000 bushel		
Corn For Silage	Total For Crop	2008	Montana	Musselshell	50		300 acres	23.5 tons	7,000 tons		
Corn For	Total For	2009	Montana	Musselshell	50		400 acres	20 tons	8,000 tons		

Silage	Crop										
Oats	Total For Crop	2003	Montana	Musselshell	50	3,000 acres	700 acres	30 bushel	21,000 bushel		
Oats	Total For Crop	2004	Montana	Musselshell	50	3,100 acres	400 acres	50 bushel	20,000 bushel		
Oats	Total For Crop	2005	Montana	Musselshell	50	2,200 acres	900 acres	37 bushel	33,000 bushel		
Oats	Total For Crop	2007	Montana	Musselshell	50	1,100 acres	500 acres	56 bushel	28,000 bushel		
Oats	Total For Crop	2008	Montana	Musselshell	50	800 acres	400 acres	40 bushel	16,000 bushel		
Oats	Total For Crop	2009	Montana	Musselshell	50	800 acres	400 acres	50 bushel	20,000 bushel		
Barley All	Total For Crop	2004	Montana	Musselshell	50	6,700 acres	3,700 acres	38 bushel	139,000 bushel		
Barley All	Total For Crop	2005	Montana	Musselshell	50	9,000 acres	3,000 acres	41 bushel	122,000 bushel		
Barley All	Total For Crop	2006	Montana	Musselshell	50	5,200 acres	3,000 acres	27 bushel	80,000 bushel		
Barley All	Total For Crop	2007	Montana	Musselshell	50	3,500 acres	1,400 acres	30 bushel	42,000 bushel		
Hay All (Dry)	Total For Crop	2003	Montana	Musselshell	50		27,000 acres	1.22 tons	33,000 tons		
Hay All (Dry)	Total For Crop	2004	Montana	Musselshell	50		23,000 acres	1.36 tons	31,300 tons		
Hay All (Dry)	Total For Crop	2005	Montana	Musselshell	50		34,500 acres	1.68 tons	58,100 tons		
Hay All (Dry)	Total For Crop	2006	Montana	Musselshell	50		26,500 acres	1.46 tons	38,600 tons		
Hay All (Dry)	Total For Crop	2007	Montana	Musselshell	50		33,000 acres	1.79 tons	59,000 tons		
Hay All (Dry)	Total For Crop	2008	Montana	Musselshell	50		32,000 acres	1.82 tons	58,300 tons		

Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture



LOCAL SERVICES

Law Enforcement

The main law enforcement agency in Musselshell County is the county sheriff's department. The Musselshell County Sheriff's Department currently consists of seven officers, including the sheriff. The Department is under contract with the city of Roundup to provide 24-hour law enforcement protection. The deputies operate on a rotation system, giving each deputy responsibility of both city and county. Two deputies overlap shifts for county coverage. Two state highway patrolmen and patrol cars also work out of Roundup. One deputy is hired under the Federal Emergency Employment Act (EEA). The county provides seven fully equipped patrol cars.

The law enforcement facility houses the sheriff's office with one cell and 12 bunks. There is a small separate area for female prisoners, one holding cell with one bunk and one booking cell that can be used as a holding cell. The maximum capacity of the female holding cell is three.

When one officer is bringing in an unruly prisoner, the existing door system involves a precarious situation of trying to maintain control of the prisoner with one hand and opening a cell door with the other. Installation of an electronic door control system would alleviate this problem.

A shower has been installed in the men's section. There is a sink and toilet in the women's section. Female inmates must be taken downstairs in the booking area to use the shower.

Needs: The building is not handicapped accessible. It has been "grand fathered" in state requirements for handicap accessible criteria, but the Department has been challenged in bringing a wheelchair up the stairs entering the building.

The concrete and cinder block building is not energy efficient and heating costs are high.

Source: 2003 Growth Policy

Current Needs (2010):

A study completed by Interstate Engineering found the law enforcement facility to be structurally sound, but lacks ADA access, exercise facilities, kitchen facilities, processing

center, and the building is too small to accommodate the needs. A new building is needed and is estimated to cost \$6,600,000 to meet current standards.

Education

Roundup Public Schools Districts 55 & 55H

2009-2010 Enrollment:

K-6 328

Jr Hi 91

9-12 187

Elementary

Central School

600 2nd St West

Roundup, Montana



Central school was constructed in 1911 and originally contained 17,145 square feet of space. In 1962 a new multi-purpose addition was built, adding another 5,136 square feet. An annex was added in 1974, providing a total of 30,000 sq ft. The Central School area now covers a full city block with about 60,024 square feet of playground area included.

Recent upgrades include lock-down doors in every classroom and the school now meets fire code. All of the old windows have been replaced.

In the last five years, the playground has been resurfaced along with new sidewalks and curb and gutter around three sides. During the 2009-2010 school year, with the help of the Montana Coal Board, an adjacent property was purchased by the School District and will be converted to a choir and band room for students K-6. This will also allow the 4th grade classrooms to move to the second floor of Central with the principal's office and library moving to the first floor.

The Coal Boiler is still functioning, but is still a major concern for the District. There also continues to be some structural issues with the building and the Board and administration are working with an architectural firm to address any safety concerns.

Roundup Junior and Senior High School

5th Avenue & 6th Street West

Roundup, Montana

A 35,746 sq ft building was constructed in 1957-58, with the original bond issue paid off in 1977. In 1971 a small addition was made to the west side, adding another 1,814 square feet. The science, auto and library areas were added in 1974, and four new classrooms in 1996, bringing the structure to the present 54,000 square feet. The building is located on 5.2 acres with the addition of a football field area west of the school.

Needs: Parking at the high school expanded, locker rooms too small, the Home Economics program has expanded beyond the existing room.

In the past five years, several upgrades have occurred at the Junior Senior High School. With help of many volunteer hours, a weight room was added to the existing weight room that more than doubled the space. New tile in the main hall, a concession/commons area, remodeled office, remodeled art room, and new football bleachers have all been done.

The following projects are still being considered:

- Locker, Shower, Dressing Rooms
- Home Economics Room Improvements
- Entry, Assembly, Administration Office

Central Montana Head Start

204 7th Avenue West
Roundup, Montana

Head Start in Roundup Montana is a non-profit organization serving 36 eligible children and their families. This program is funded with federal grant dollars and in-kind matches. Central Montana Head Start Inc. located in Lewistown, is the grantee for this area. Head Start provides comprehensive developmental services for low-income, and special needs preschool children (age's three to five) and social services for their families. Specific services for children focus on education, socio –emotional development, physical and mental health, and nutrition. Transportation is provide within the city limits for children attending the center.

Head Start has been serving Musselshell County since 1991. At that time, only home base services were offered with three people on staff. At present, Head Start has a staff of seven employees. The center program has an enrollment of 36 children and class is held 3.5 hours a day Monday through Thursday. Currently there is a morning and a afternoon class.

Recently CMHS began offering paid slots for families who do not meet the eligibility requirements. This option is limited to four children in the Roundup area.

Needs: one of the concerns is the playground, it meets the bare minimum requirements for 18 children. The plan is to continue using the existing playground, and provide a variety of large motor activities possibly in the areas nearby. Recently the children have semi-monthly visits at the community center.

Based on the community assessment, CMHS has identified a need for Early Head Start which serves children ages 0-3. Head Start is actively seeking funding to meet the communities lack of infant care.

Source: Susan Goffena, Roundup Central Manager

2009-2010 Melstone School Enrollment

K-6	35	40 from Musselshell County, 13 from Rosebud County
Jr. High	14	
High School	32	24 from Musselshell County, 8 from Rosebud County

Source: Kathy Pfister, County Superintendent of Schools

The Melstone School, on the north edge of town, was built in 1967. The building has 27,000 square feet of space with 9.2 acres of school playground area.

Home School Enrollment*

Kindergarten	0
Grades 1-8	23
High school	20

*as of October 2009

Source: Kathy Pfister, County Superintendent of Schools

The Musselshell School closed in 2003, with plans for elementary students to move to Melstone and high school students to relocate to Roundup. The Musselshell School building is located at the southern edge of the community of Musselshell, next to Highway 310. The original portion of the three-story brick structure was built in 1913 and contains 11,880 square feet of space located on a picturesque four acres adjacent to the Musselshell River. The historic building is still in good shape, with wood floors and sound structure, affording an opportunity for other private or public uses.

A portion of the property and the old shop were deeded over to the fire department. The remaining land and building are now a community center managed by the friends of Musselshell School. Legal description is in the lots and blocks.

Health Care Facilities

Roundup Memorial Healthcare

1202 Third Street West
Roundup, Montana 59072
(406) 323-2301

The hospital is classified as an critical access hospital, with 25 beds available and we have a rural health clinic attached. The building was constructed in 1953 and opened in 1954. It is currently being remodeled with an addition of a centralized registration and waiting area and a new coal fired boiler. The hospital was closed in 1976 and reopened in 1979.

The hospital includes a 24-hour emergency room, radiology, lab, physical therapy, ultra sound, clinic, and blood bank,

Needs include:

1. Remodeling in remainder of Clinic
2. Heliport
3. Dietary remodel
4. Remodeling in North wing of Hospital

Source: Gary Bostrom, CEO

To help defray expenses, donations may be made through the Memorial Fund for current hospital expenses, and the Endowment Fund (only income from the invested Endowment Fund can be used to supplement the hospital and clinic's budget). Fundraisers have been held for the Endowment Fund. (*In Appreciation* newsletter, May 2003)

Private Care Facilities in Roundup:

TLC Personal Care Home, 804 2nd St. West
Whispering Pines Personal Care Home, 40 Horsethief Creek Road
Dental: Dr. Mark Rosebush, 239 Main St., Roundup, Montana
Chiropractic: Roundup Chiropractic, 247 Main St., Roundup, Montana
Optometrist: Roundup Vision Clinic, 236 Main, Roundup, Montana
Frontier Healthcare, 251 1st Avenue West, Roundup, Montana

Other Facilities

Musselshell County Courthouse

The county courthouse was built in 1939 and is located on Main Street. Since 1973 improvements have included a new boiler sidewalks, sprinkler system, landscaping and windows replaced on the lower, second and third floors.

Needs: Improvements to the steps are needed.. Many offices are overcrowded and more space is needed in general. Handicapped access to facilities in the building does not meet ADA standards and must be addressed.



City Offices

The City Water office, located on Third Avenue between Main and First Street West, also acts as the de facto City Hall for Roundup, with facilities for City Council, Planning Board and other community meetings. The Public Works office, Justice of the Peace and Central Montana Resource Conservation and Development office are also located in this building

Churches*

Assembly of God	Emmanuel Baptist
St. Benedict's Catholic	Church of Christ
1st Congregational	Calvary Episcopal
Evangelical Free Church	Zion Lutheran
First Methodist	L.D.S. Church
Seventh Day Adventist	Jehovah's Witness
Melstone Bible Church	1 st Southern Baptist
New Life Community Church	Frontier Independent
Mercy Baptist Church	Church

*as of 06-28-10

The State of Montana Public Health & Human Services

26 Main Street
Roundup, MT 59072

- Child and Family Services Division – Family Services 323-2107
- Human and Community Services Division – Public Assistance Musselshell County
TANF-SNAP-Food Stamps-Medicaid 323-2101
- Senior and Long Term Care Division – Adult Protective Services 323-1320
655-7640

The Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) with the area office in Lewistown services low-income individuals in Musselshell County. Their program includes: Employment and training, information and referral, childcare, weatherization and housing, energy assistance, nutrition and small business loans.

Senior Citizen Services

Musselshell County Council on Aging

Mission Statement: “Keeping Seniors Independently living at home as long as safely possible.”

We offer assistance to senior citizens in the areas of homemaking, transportation and meals. Meals on Wheels is available 6 days a week and we serve a noon meal at the senior center 3 days a week. A suggested donation for meals is \$3.50.

A wheel chair accessible bus is available for transportation locally and to Billings. A suggested donation for rides is \$1.50 locally and \$15.00 to Billings.

Homemaking services include shopping, cleaning, laundry, etc, but no “hands on assistance.” For example; supervision of medication and be done, but no dispensing of medication.

The Musselshell County Council on Aging operates with federal, state, and county monies and also depends on donations from services and memorials.

Area II Agency on Aging

This agency coordinates federal and state dollars in an 11-county and 2 reservation area that includes Musselshell County. It also offers direct assistance with a nurse and social worker for case management, setting up services, follow-up, a self directed personal care program, an information and assistance program with paperwork assistance with Medicare and housing, etc., an ombudsman advocate program for assistance with long-term care a representative payee program and a Guardianship Program. The Area II Agency on Aging sponsors the RSVP program.

Source: Karen Erdie, Administrator

Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP)

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. Members and volunteers serve with national and community nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies to help meet community needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas. The Corporation is part of USA Freedom Corps, a White House initiative to foster a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility, and help all Americans answer the President's Call to Service.

Senior Corps

Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of more than 500,000 Americans age 55 and older to meet a wide range of community challenges through three programs: RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions.

RSVP

RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), one of the largest volunteer efforts in the nation, engages people 55 and over in a diverse range of volunteer activities. Volunteers organize neighborhood watch programs, tutor children, renovate homes, teach English to immigrants, assist victims of natural disasters, and serve their communities in myriad other ways. Nationwide, in fiscal year 2005, approximately 500,000 volunteers served an average of four hours a week at an estimated 65,000 local organizations through 766 RSVP projects. Volunteers may receive reimbursement for meals and transportation.

South Central Montana RSVP

315 ½ Suite 1 Main Street

Roundup, MT 59072

Phone: 406-323-1403

Fax: 406-323-4403

Email: rdprsvp@midrivers.com

Mission is to engage people 55 and older in their communities by providing volunteer opportunities which are enjoyable and meaningful to them. To help older persons combat loneliness and isolation. To provide volunteer service to the community which makes a

substantive contribution to the life and well being of the community. To illustrate the fact that older persons can play important roles toward solving pressing community problems.

South Central Montana RSVP, based in Roundup serves Musselshell, Golden Valley and Fergus Counties.

329 volunteers, serving at 56 work sites.

Local sponsoring agency: Area II Agency on Aging

Staff: Shirlee Brillhart, Project Director

Patty McCarthy, Program Coordinator for Musselshell Petroleum and Golden Valley County.

Norma Thomas, Program Coordinator for Fergus County and Judith Basin County
Federally funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Needs: Would like to see a community center that would accommodate at least 200 people, with kitchen.

Source: Shirlee Brillhart, Project Director

Homes on the Range

902 3rd St. East

Roundup, MT 59072

(406) 323-1291

The Homes on the Range Retirement Complex, constructed in 1977, is a low-income housing unit subsidized by HUD. Residents must be 62 years of age or older and/or disabled (receiving compensation funding). The three-story building is located on the east edge of town and contains a total of 50 apartments (four two-bedroom and 46 one-bedroom). Residents must be self-sufficient and provide their own meals, cleaning and any required medical care.

The office and a dining/recreation area with attached kitchen are housed in a separate building. Meals are not served in this facility but it is available for special occasions. The area serves as a library, music and craft room. Parking with plug-ins is provided, along with an area for gardening with storage shed.

Source: Wanda Flanagan, Office Assistant

Museum

Musselshell Valley Historical Museum

524 First Street West

Roundup, MT 59072

(406) 323-1403 or (406) 323-1525

The museum is housed in the old Catholic Church school building, one block west of Main Street. It contains over 7,600 square feet of exhibit area. The Museum displays a colorful local history, with a simulated coal mine, Indian artifacts, large fossil and mineral display,

wildlife exhibit, one room schoolhouse, general store, early telephone switchboard, an original log cabin, also a 1932 Peitenpol airplane, build by a local boy.

The Museum is open daily May through September from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Needs: A heating system, windows for first floor (\$20,000), carpet replaced (\$3,500).

Library

Roundup Community Library

6th Ave and 6th West
Roundup, Montana

The Roundup Community Library is a joint school and public library funded by the City of Roundup, Musselshell County and the Roundup School District, No. 55 and 55-H. It is located at Roundup High School.

During the school year, the library is open 53 hours per week. In the summer, it is open 20 hours per week. The Library Director is the grades 7-12, School Librarian. There is also a Community Librarian, hired by the Library Board. The School Librarian is hired for a ten-month full time teaching contract. The Community Librarian is a part time position, but works year round.

The Library Board has five voting members and three ex-officio members. The five voting members consist of a representative from each of the three funding entities and two at-large members. The five terms of office end on a rotating basis with one term ending each year. The three ex-officio members are the Library Director, Community Librarian and the Roundup Central Elementary School Librarian. The Community Librarian acts as the secretary for the Library Board.

The library is a member of the South Central Library Federation of the Montana State Library. Being a member of the Federation helps the library take advantage of information sharing resources, such as Interlibrary Loan. The library holds over 27,000 items. These include books, videos, CD-ROMs, books on tape, microfilm of the Roundup Record-Tribune, and maps. The library also houses a community archive of historical documents and photographs, which are continually compiled by the Montana Heritage Project.

The technology includes a Macintosh lab of 14 computers, a PC lab of 9 computers. All of the Macintosh computers and half of the PC's are filtered for the students. 4 of the PC's are not filtered and are available to the public visiting the library. Students are not allowed to use the public computers. All of the computers are available to the public. The public has to understand that the filtered computers don't have the same access availability as the public computers. All computers have internet capability and are connected to printers.

The library has joined the Montana Shared Catalog which is a consortium of over 100 libraries in Montana. This allows our patrons to be able to search our Public Access Catalog as well as all of the other libraries in the Montana Shared Catalog. The patron has the

capability of searching our catalog from their home computer. They can renew items, put items on hold and request items from the other libraries in the system.

We subscribe to several online databases. OCLC is used to catalog items and to borrow and lend items with other libraries all over the United States. The Gale Group Databases, formerly called Infotrac, are used to access full text magazine and newspaper articles. This allows us to have access to thousands of magazines, journals and newspapers as well as other databases without having to subscribe to each individual magazine. The Gale Group Databases are now completely funded by Montana State Legislature. World Book Online is purchased through a consortium of libraries in the area. Some of the databases need a password which is available at the library.

One of the library's objectives is to provide for the informational needs of the students and staff of Roundup Junior/Senior High School, the residents of Roundup and the residents of Musselshell County. The library's function is to assist and to instruct in finding information, either in books, on the internet or by other means, and in providing for the recreational reading desires of all members of the community.

Needs: The library is always contending with rising prices of materials. The budget has remained the same for several years. But, the price of materials has risen at a steady pace. We have become increasingly more dependent upon technology. Computers need to be updated and availability to databases needs to increase. Books and books on CD are heavily used by our patrons. The school continues to work on infrastructure issues of the library.

The library continues to search for and apply for grants to help in the operation of the library. In the last few years we have received several grants. Grants from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and PPL of Montana assisted in the installation of a handicapped accessible door and a handicapped accessible ramp in front of the library. The school also helped to purchase and install those items. The National Endowment of Humanities awarded us the Picturing America set of American artist prints. The American Library Association and National Endowment for the Humanities awarded us the We the People Bookshelf, which was about 20 books and DVD's dealing with the American government. The books included fiction and nonfiction for all ages. The DVD set was the American Civil War by Ken Burns. The Montana State Library awarded us the Ready2Read grant for Books and Babies and a reading program for ages 0-3. That included a tub of board books for kids.

Source: Dale Alger, Library and School Librarian

Community Center

Community Center/Administration
700 3rd St West
Roundup, Montana

The present Community Center in Roundup was originally the Roundup High School built in 1918 and the Junior/Senior High School was added in 1926 with a new gym added in 1939. Currently the 1939 portion of the building and the basement of the old high school section are used. The superintendent's office is in this building along with elementary physical education. Wedding receptions, quilting show, and voting take place on a regular basis. The building is owned by the school district and is used for community events. Needs of the building include main floor restrooms and a portable activities floor.

Melstone Community Center

500 Fergus
Melstone, Montana

The Community Center in Melstone also houses the city offices. The building is generally in good condition, but new windows and doors will be needed in the future.

A Needs Assessment Survey indicated a possibility of expanding activities at the Center, especially for teenagers.

Source: Melstone Capital Improvements Plan

Community Conference Center

Roundup, Montana

A projected need for a Community Conference Center in Roundup is still valid. Total estimated cost is \$375,000 for the structure and \$90,000 for the parking/staging area.

Fire and Emergency Services

Roundup/Musselshell County Volunteer Fire Department

The Roundup Volunteer/Musselshell County Rural Volunteer Fire Department is located one block west of Main Street on Third Avenue. The department contains city and county vehicles housed in the same structure. Mutual agreements between the city and county provide guidelines for maintenance and responsibilities for the respectively owned vehicles.

Twenty-six volunteer community members staff the department. Each member is provided with a pager for their person and a scanner for their home or business. At the present time the city has a rating of five by the Insurance Services Office, which attests to the efficiency of the department.

Dispatch for fire calls is done at the sheriff's office, which is manned 24 hours a day. There are two sirens located in town, one at the sheriff's office and one at the fire station covering each end of town. For a listing of existing equipment and future needs, see the City of Roundup Capital Improvements Plan and the Musselshell County Capital Improvements Plan (Appendix H and Appendix I).

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has supplied Musselshell County with wildland firefighting trucks. These trucks are strategically located throughout

the county for quick response to a wildfire call received in response to the 911 Dispatch at the Sheriff's office in Roundup.

Melstone Fire Department

The Melstone Fire Department is a volunteer organization that is not financially supported by the Town of Melstone. It is dispatched from the 911 Dispatch at the Sheriff's office in Roundup. The department's fleet includes a pumper, a mini-pumper, and four "wild land rigs" for fighting brush fires. All six pieces of equipment are in workable condition. The city/county response unit provides contract fire service to the western portion of Rosebud County.

Needs: The department is in need of a new tanker or tender, capable of hauling at least 4,000 gallons to support the fleet. The previous tender was sold to capitalize on its remaining value before major repairs were necessary. For further discussion, see the Town of Melstone Capital Improvements Plan (Appendix J).

Source: Melstone Capital Improvements Plan

The Bull Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (BMFD) and the Hawk Creek Volunteer Fire Departments were formed after the Hawk Creek Fire in 1984. Both have been upgraded to fire department status and are dispatched from the 911 Dispatch at the Sheriff's office in Roundup. The Hawk Creek Fire Department is Wildland with some structure classification and the BMVFD and the Dean Creek Fire Department are classified Wildland Departments at the time of this printing.

For a listing of existing equipment and needs see the Musselshell County Capital Improvements Plan (Appendix H).

The Dean Creek Fire Department located west of Roundup was formed in the late 1990's. The department is dispatched through the 911 Dispatch Center at the Sheriff's Department in Roundup. For a listing of existing equipment and needs see the Musselshell County Capital Improvements Plan (Appendix H).

Emergency Medical Services

Melstone: The Emergency Medical Service (EMS) or Quick Response Unit (QRU) is a part of the volunteer Fire Department and independent of the town. The Melstone and Hawk Creek units perform life saving medical attention and wait for the Roundup ambulance unless a life-threatening situation makes it necessary for the units to meet. The units are supported by donations.

Roundup: The Musselshell County Ambulance Service is also self-sufficient, and operates four ambulances. The county subsidizes the Ambulance Director.

The ambulance building was new in 2005 and is in very good condition. The building is also used for training and has offices and conference rooms used for other community functions.

For a description of equipment needs and budgeting, see the Musselshell County Capital Improvements Plan (Appendix H).

Disaster and Emergency Service

704 1st Street East
Roundup, Montana 59072
406-323-2777

Musselshell County has mutual aid agreements with all of the surrounding counties for disaster incidents. These agreements are being updated at the time of this printing. The Disaster and Emergency Service operations are supported by Musselshell County, with signed mutual agreements with the cities of Roundup and Melstone. See *Appendix D* for the Musselshell County Disaster and Emergency Coordination Plan.

The Disaster and Emergency Service office has a reference list of all equipment with all emergency responders, including private citizens. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is coordinated with Yellowstone County and is responsible for alerting citizens to severe weather, earthquakes and hazardous waste situations.

The Public Safety Communications system is operated through the Sheriff's dispatcher to contact emergency responders. It has four repeater sites, Melstone, Hawk Creek, Roundup and Bull Mountain/Dean Creek.

Needs: The radio system has not been updated for over 20 years. The repeater site housing units are susceptible to break-ins, acts of vandalism and the elements. If the sites are demobilized, communication within the county is impossible. Cell phones cannot be used in certain areas of the county.

The existing Outdoor Emergency Alert Sirens are in need of upgrading to expand to locations in the county and to alert citizens specifically of flash floods, severe weather, hazardous waste spills and any other impending disaster.

Source: John Franson, Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator

Public Health Services

Musselshell County is part of a six-county health district, also consisting of Petroleum, Fergus, Judith, Wheatland and Golden Valley counties. The public and environmental health official for this district is based in Lewistown. Issues that affect public health, sanitarians and the junk vehicle program are operated from the district office. Available service are in the following summary



Central Montana Health District

507 West Main Street Lewistown, MT 59457

Phone/Fax: (406) 535-7466; E-mail: cmhealth@co.fergus.mt.us

Serving Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum & Wheatland counties

Environmental Health Services

1. Complaints – investigate complaints regarding issues that could adversely affect the public in general. The CMHD does not have jurisdiction over private residences, but does investigate complaints if the problem is deemed a public health concern.
2. Animal bites – Investigates animal bites, reported by medical field staff and individual citizens, and reports findings to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services as required in 37.114.203 of the Administrative Rules of Montana.
3. Communicable diseases – Investigates communicable diseases, reported by medical field staff and individual citizens, and reports findings to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.
4. Licensed Establishments – Assist in license administration. Conduct regular inspections for licensed establishments in food service, schools, public accommodations, trailer courts, campgrounds and swimming pools.
5. Septic systems – Subsurface wastewater (septic) permit administration with soil profile analysis, proposed lot plans and installed system inspections. Educate and certify septic system installers.
6. Public Education – Work in conjunction with the local extension agents to educate the general public on safe food handling practices through ServSafe program and issue certificates for participants.
7. On-call – Sanitarian or public health nurse is on-call 24-7 in case of public or environmental health emergency.
8. Subdivision review – Provide sanitary review of proposed subdivisions, family transfers and boundary line adjustments in accordance with the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act.

Junk Vehicle Removal Program

1. Remove junk vehicles from private property upon release from private ownership and collect for statewide recycling program.

CENTRAL MONTANA HEALTH DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Prevention

The Central Montana Health District (CMHD) Public Health, CMHD Environmental Health and Central Montana Family Planning work cooperatively to perform communicable disease activities. CMHD communicable disease prevention services work to protect the community from the spread of communicable diseases, including: investigates individual cases, as well as outbreaks, in a private and confidential manner, monitors trends in particular diseases, contains or controls the spread of these diseases, and provides statistics to Montana DPHHS.

Communicable diseases are those that are spread by touch, direct contact or even through the air. It is necessary for CMHD to track these illnesses to prevent the transmission of disease. Some of the diseases investigated are Chickenpox, Influenza, Chlamydia, Hepatitis, Pertussis, Norovirus, as well as Giardia, Salmonella, and Campylobacter.

Reportable Diseases are those that healthcare providers are required to report; CMHD is obligated by law to perform follow-up on all reportable diseases and conditions. The CMHD conducts monthly Epidemiology Team meetings with the local Unified Health Team to review communicable disease concerns in the six county area.

CMHD is also available as an educational resource for parasite infestations such as: head lice, bed bugs and scabies.

Immunization and Maternal Child Health

CMHD Public Health Programs provide their communities with protection from diseases through immunization services. Vaccines help prevent diseases that used to be the top killer of children in this country. Maintaining high rates of childhood immunizations protects not only vaccinated children, but also those too young or too ill to have completed their full series of shots. A reduction in immunization rates inevitably results in an increase in disease. Therefore, immunizations are crucial to the health and safety of the community at large.

CMHD Public Health conducts school and daycare immunization record reviews to ensure compliance with the State of Montana immunization laws and offers traveling and school based clinics for children and adults. CMHD Public Health participates in the Vaccine for Children program offering federally funded vaccines for children aged 18 and under for routine childhood vaccines. **NO CHILD IS DENIED VACCINES DUE TO INABILITY TO PAY!** Our Public Health office is also available as a resource for suggested/required immunizations for out of country travel.

The CMHD Public Health programs offer health/safety education and are a health resource for community members, senior centers, employers, daycare providers and public schools. Capillary blood lead and hematocrit testing is offered to the HeadStart programs in the Health District communities.

CMHD Public Health coordinates the Fetal Infant Child Mortality Review Team for Golden Valley, Petroleum and Wheatland Counties.

Comprehensive Cancer Control

Central Montana Health District provides a coordinated approach to reduce the incidence, morbidity and mortality of cancer through prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation. Our work in cancer control is made possible in part by a grant from the Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Section of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Our cancer control efforts reach the six county area. [The Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2006-2010](#) is the guiding document for our work.

One of our first projects is focused on increasing Colorectal Cancer screening rates in Primary Care Practices. A pilot project at a local physician's office is being conducted in an effort to serve as a benchmark practice to be replicated in other primary care settings. The pilot project is using the "Primary Care Clinician's Evidence-Based Toolbox and Guide" by Mona Sarfaty, MD.

Anyone interested in Colorectal Cancer Prevention and comprehensive cancer control is welcome to be a part of the Central Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition.

Central Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program

The mission of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Program (NAPA) Program is to decrease the prevalence of obesity, and improve the health of Montanans, through policy and environmental changes and statewide/community interventions. This is to be accomplished through the development of systematic, evidence-based approaches. Specific goals of NAPA include: increase physical activity; increase fruit & vegetable consumption; decrease consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages; increase breastfeeding initiation, duration, and exclusivity; decrease time spent viewing television (and other screen activities) and decrease intake of energy-dense foods (understand the importance of caloric balance).

Central Montana NAPA program is engaged in an activity to increase breastfeeding initiation, and duration, by promoting the program specifically supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): ["The 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding for Hospitals"](#). The global program, Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, was developed to address infant mortality and morbidity throughout the world, and promotes this "10 Steps" program. Hospitals do not have to become Baby-Friendly certified to be part of this NAPA program in Montana, but are to be working toward adoption of some, or all, of the steps.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

CMHD Public Health is responsible for coordinating and supporting the overall public health emergency preparedness activities including research, training and education, simulated exercises, public information and response.

Our goal with emergency preparedness is to provide and support effective planning both with community partners and within the Health District Public Health Programs. The planning process includes both management of public health emergencies and education within the community to make people aware of what to do before an emergency arises. During an actual public health emergency, we will play a vital role in maintaining the health of our community. We aim to keep "well people well" and prevent the spread of disease in the event of a major health

event through timely and effective public information and if warranted, making sure people have access to needed medication.

CMHD Public Health cannot prepare the community alone. Therefore we have built strong relationships with community organizations within our six county area. By working together, the organizations that will be involved in a public health emergency will all use the same incident command structure, know how to communicate with each other and effectively keep the community safe and healthy.

[The Ready Campaign of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#), educating and empowering Americans to prepare for emergencies including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

Other Services

- Stepping On Community Fall Prevention Program
- Adult Protective Team Member
- Child Protective Team Member
- Central Montana Health District Board of Health Participant
- Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Participant
- Human Services Coalition Participant
- Community Health Fair Participant

Other Services

Alternatives, Inc.

A community service that offers alternatives to jail terms and connections to programs that assist the public in rehabilitation procedures.

The salary for one employee five days a week is paid for by clients and Musselshell County, with indigency assistance for low-income clients.

Some of the components of the program consist of; community service, detention, restitution, work release, supervision, urinalysis testing, house arrest, drug and alcohol assessment, partner or family member assault, aggression control education, drug & alcohol treatment, driver offender program, tobacco cessation education, compulsive gambling treatment, criminal thinking errors and minor in possession. All services are available to the general public with the exception of the tobacco cessation education and minor in possession available to those 18 and under.

Youth Community Home (YCH)

16843 Hwy 12 W
Roundup, Montana 59072
(406) 323-4444

The YCH is a nonprofit home for youth that are abused, neglected or troubled. The state licensed shelter has a current capacity for ten individuals. The shelter offers emergency shelter and therapy and is supported by private funding.

Needs: \$1200 /mo for each youth, and expansion of building, including chapel.

City Parks

Roundup

- City Park, described as Blocks 30 and 31, Second Edition, located between Eighth and Ninth Avenues and Second and Forth Streets East. The 4.54 acre recreation area contains tennis courts, a recently upgraded swimming pool, playground equipment and tables. The area bordering the more heavily trafficked Highway 12 East is well fenced.
- Roundup Ball Field CS 1978-17, 6.68 acres
- Roundup Golf Course, 162.622 acres
- Half-Circle Park, McCleary First Edition Park area, 15 acres, between Thirteenth and Sixteenth Avenues and between Second Street East and Second Street West. This undeveloped area consists of low bluffs, sandstone formations and pine trees.
- South end of Main Street Book, described as “That portion of the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 13, Township 8 North, Range 25 East, M.P.M. lying between the south line of Front Avenue, City of Roundup, and the centerline of the former main track of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company, and lying westerly of the west line produced of First Street East.” This landscaped area has been designated as a War Memorial area with the addition of a military tank and plaque of the names of area servicemen. The south border of the landscaped area contains memorial trees for private citizens.
- Immediate area of “R”, south of Roundup
- Capital needs for the parks and swimming pool are discussed in the City of Roundup Capital Improvements Plan (see Appendix I).
- The “River Walk” is a 2 mile improved trail south of Main Street near the fairgrounds and bordered on the south side by the Musselshell River. It is a nature trail that is open to the public year round. Improvements and expansion are continued annually.
- Fairgrounds-The County Fairgrounds is located at the southeast edge of Roundup.

Swimming Pool

A volunteer group, Neighbors for a New Pool, raised funds to rebuild a new pool facility at the location of the old pool in the City Park. The pool was completed and opened in June 2003. Past records have indicated approximately 100 people used the pool daily, three months out of the year.

Melstone

Swimming Pool

Volunteers operate the swimming pool independently of the town of Melstone. All funding for the operation and maintenance of the pool come from user fees and donations. The maintenance of the pool is contracted out to a private firm.

Improvements desired for the pool include:

- New filtering system for big pool
- Solar covers for both pools
- Fix leak in wading pool
- Portable dome for winter use of pool
- Re-hook up hot water tanks for bathrooms and shower use
- New ladders (identified as a "must")
- Replace bolts on diving boards
- Fence weaving material

The swimming pool provides the major portion of summertime entertainment for the children of the community and was ranked fifth highest priority in the Needs Assessment Survey.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Summary of Trends

City of Roundup

Water System

The City of Roundup water system was evaluated in a recent study to determine deficiencies and recommend improvements to upgrade the system components. The “Preliminary Engineering Report for Water System Improvements” (Water System PER) was completed by Great West Engineering in March 2010 and included recommendations for improvements to the distribution system, clearwell and pumps, and the transmission line crossing the Musselshell River. Alternatives to improve water quality from the source were not considered in the PER because the city is pursuing the feasibility of developing a better source of water by connecting to the proposed regional water system. The regional water system is described in the water resources section of the Natural Resources chapter of this report. The following discussion of water system needs is from the 2010 Water System PER executive summary.

Water Source

The City’s water quality is very poor. This can be attributed to both the source and other factors such as deterioration of old cast iron water mains within the distribution system. The water source is from two wells drilled into an abandon coal mine shaft located on the south side of the Musselshell River. The water from the source is high in iron, manganese, sulfate and total dissolved solids.

To address the poor water quality from the source, the City is currently pursuing development of the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System (MJRWS). The feasibility of this system is being investigated through a separate engineering study. The purpose of this study is not to re-evaluate the feasibility of the MJRWS. Even though the water quality from the source is poor, it does meet all of EPA’s National Primary Drinking Water Quality Regulations (NPDWQR). So for the purpose of the water study, it is assumed that the water source will be suitable for the interim until the MJRWS is developed.

Clearwell and Infiltration Gallery

Currently the City's water system utilizes the caisson of an old infiltration gallery located adjacent to the Musselshell River as a chlorination contact tank and a pumping reservoir. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has expressed on several occasions that the clearwell is potentially under the influence of surface water from the river, and that it could expose the City to several surface water contaminants. DEQ plans on conducting a more extensive evaluation of the clearwell in the spring of 2010 to verify their suspicions. At that point DEQ could likely require disconnection of the infiltration gallery, or addition of water treatment processes per DEQ's surface water treatment standards. In such a case the City would need to adhere to DEQ's requirement to avoid a violation.

In addition to the health related concerns, the clearwell leaks about 84,000 gallons per day into the river's alluvial groundwater. Since the DEQ has established that the clearwell is potentially under the direct influence of the river, a portion of the chlorinated water may be contaminating the river. This loss of water also results in a significant loss in pumping energy.

Distribution System

The greatest challenge currently facing the City of Roundup is the physical condition of their distribution system. Approximately 50 percent of their water mains are cast iron pipe approaching 100 years of age. These pipes are rusted and deteriorated to the point that they severely impact the City's water quality and pose a significant health risk. Iron concentration 68 times as high as the Maximum Contaminant Level specified in the National Secondary Drinking Water Quality Regulations (NSDWQR) have been observed under normal operating conditions. The degradation of water quality is primarily attributed to the cast iron pipes. The photograph on the front cover of the PER report best illustrates the severity of this problem. The dark brown/black colored water flowing from the hydrant in the photograph is the City's drinking water.

The aged system has posed high maintenance demands on the City. In recent years an excessive amount of time has been required to repair leaky pipes. Approximately 50 percent of the water valves in the old cast iron portions of the system have been rusted into the open position. This makes it very difficult for the City to isolate portions of their system to make repairs. The City is also hesitant to open fire hydrants for fear that they will plug up with chunks of rust and not reseal when they are closed. Potential catastrophic failure of a pipe is also a concern when opening hydrants.

Most of the existing cast iron mains are undersized for fire protection.

Approximately 55 percent of all cast iron mains are four inch diameter with about a one inch thick layer of rust on their inside walls. This effectively makes them hydraulically equivalent to two inch diameter pipes.

Consequently about 36 percent of the distribution system is unable to provide

minimum fire flows specified by the National Fire Protection Agency as determined from computer modeling of the water system that was conducted as part of the water system study.

Transmission Line Crossing the Musselshell River

Currently water is pumped from the source on the south side of the Musselshell River in a single transmission line under the river to a booster station (clearwell) on the north side. The structural integrity of the line is questionable. The City has expressed concerns that the line was not properly installed and lacks several required thrust blocks.

At this location, lack of redundancy combined with the likelihood of pipe failure could likely result in the total loss of water supply until repairs could be completed. In such an event, the City's storage could potentially diminish prior to repairs. This would make the system vulnerable to contaminants in adjacent soil that could be drawn into the system. This hazard is magnified by the fact that the system is deteriorating and easily penetrable through leaky pipe joints. There are also 13 leaking underground tank sites that have been identified throughout the City, which contribute to the risk of contamination.

In addition to the risk of contamination, such a failure would also cause significant erosion of the riverbed as 1,100 gallons per minute of pressurized water is forced from the pipe under the riverbed. Backflow of chlorinated water from the clearwell into the river would also be a likely possibility.

Water Meters

In addition to aging water mains, the City is also faced with aging water meters. The original water meters were installed approximately 30 years ago and are beginning to approach the end of their useful life. Within the past several years, the City has been faced with numerous inoperable meters. Unfortunately, the City was forced to purchase new meters since repair parts for the existing meters are no longer available. It is anticipated that the City will need to replace their entire metering system over the span of the next 10 years.

Financial Status

The City of Roundup has taken a very proactive approach to correct these deficiencies. Over the last several years they have consistently increased water user rates as an attempt to finance capital improvement projects. Water rates have double since 1997 from \$14.98/month to \$29.99/month. This is based on an average usage of 6,000 gallons per month per equivalent dwelling unit. Current water rates are 111% of the City's target rate for just water and combined water/wastewater rates are 117% of the City's target rate for combined water and wastewater. Historically, the City has used surplus revenue from their water enterprise fund to finance water system rehabilitation projects on an average two year cycle. Unfortunately as the City has raised rates to increase their surplus,

operating expenses have continued to increase as well. This is due to increased maintenance, electricity and other unavoidable expenses. Their surplus revenues have continued to decrease as a result. Future surplus revenues are not expected to exceed \$50,000/year. To correct all identified deficiencies in the system an estimated \$11.6-million is needed. At the current rate this would take 240 years. Since the City does not have the ability to fund all necessary rehabilitation, they are advised to seek grant money (See Section 1.5)

Preferred Alternative for Improvements

After a detailed analysis of the alternatives, the following alternatives were recommended:

Recommendations for Ultimate Build-out:

Alternative D-3: Replace all cast iron water mains within the system with PVC water mains, up-sizing all existing 4 and 6-inch diameter cast iron mains to 8-inch diameter; replace three blocks of existing 4-inch diameter PVC in 8th Avenue with 8-inch diameter PVC; and upsize existing transmission lines from tank into system.

Alternative CW-1: By-pass the clearwell and pump directly from the supply wells to the distribution system; install new pumps in the supply wells; install a new chlorination system at the supply wells; and upgrade the transmission line crossing at the river.

Alternative WM-2: Replace all existing water meters with new touch read water meters.

No Transmission line alternative was recommended since the selected clearwell alternative would require upgrading the transmission line which is covered in alternative CW-1. Since water user rates in Roundup are already high and significant rate increases are anticipated with the development of the MJRWS, it is desirable to make the improvements recommended in this report with as little debt as possible. Due to the magnitude of the improvements need to rehabilitate the distribution system, this can only be accomplished by phasing the project and leveraging the maximum amount of grant money with each phase.

The City of Roundup existing water system is shown in Figure 10 on page 54. For additional information regarding the water system, see the 2010 Roundup CIP beginning on page 7.

Sewer System

The City of Roundup completed major improvements to the sewer system in 1999 including three-cell aerated lagoons with a pre-discharge wetlands area, and upgrades to the two main lift stations. Parts of the sewer collection

system are approaching the end of their useful life and should be replaced on a regular basis according to a maintenance schedule using city funds.

The sewer system for Roundup is shown in Figure 11 on page 55. For additional information regarding the sewer system, see the 2010 Roundup CIP in Appendix J beginning on page 15.

Storm Sewer System

The City of Roundup has a storm sewer system that consists of approximately 2.5 miles of collection lines. The ultimate discharge of the storm water is into the Musselshell River. A recent *City of Roundup Storm Drain Plan* prepared by Morrison-Maierle in July, 2003 evaluated the storm sewer system and provided recommended improvements.

The Storm Drain Plan divided the storm drainage system into 6 zones for analysis. A map is included in Appendix B of the storm drain plan that identifies each zone. The analysis identified several areas in need of improvements and/or expansion. A summary of the recommendations are provided in Appendix B of the storm drain plan.

The Storm Drain Plan included several recommendations to improve and expand the City's storm drain system. One of the principal areas of concern is on the east end of the city which is the current focus of the city for upgrades. The following discussion is from the east end storm drain plan update prepared by Great West Engineering in 2008 addressing the storm drain improvements scheduled for the area.

"A large area lying east of town and north of Highway 12 is platted as part of the original town site but is currently undeveloped. The Figure on the following page illustrates the undeveloped area (in red) in relationship to the developed portions of Roundup. The Storm Drain Plan called the area "Zone 3b" and provided the following recommendation for the area in Section 5.3: Selected Projects/Alternatives of the Storm Drain Plan.

CITY OF ROUNDUP, MONTANA

MAP OF WATER SYSTEM

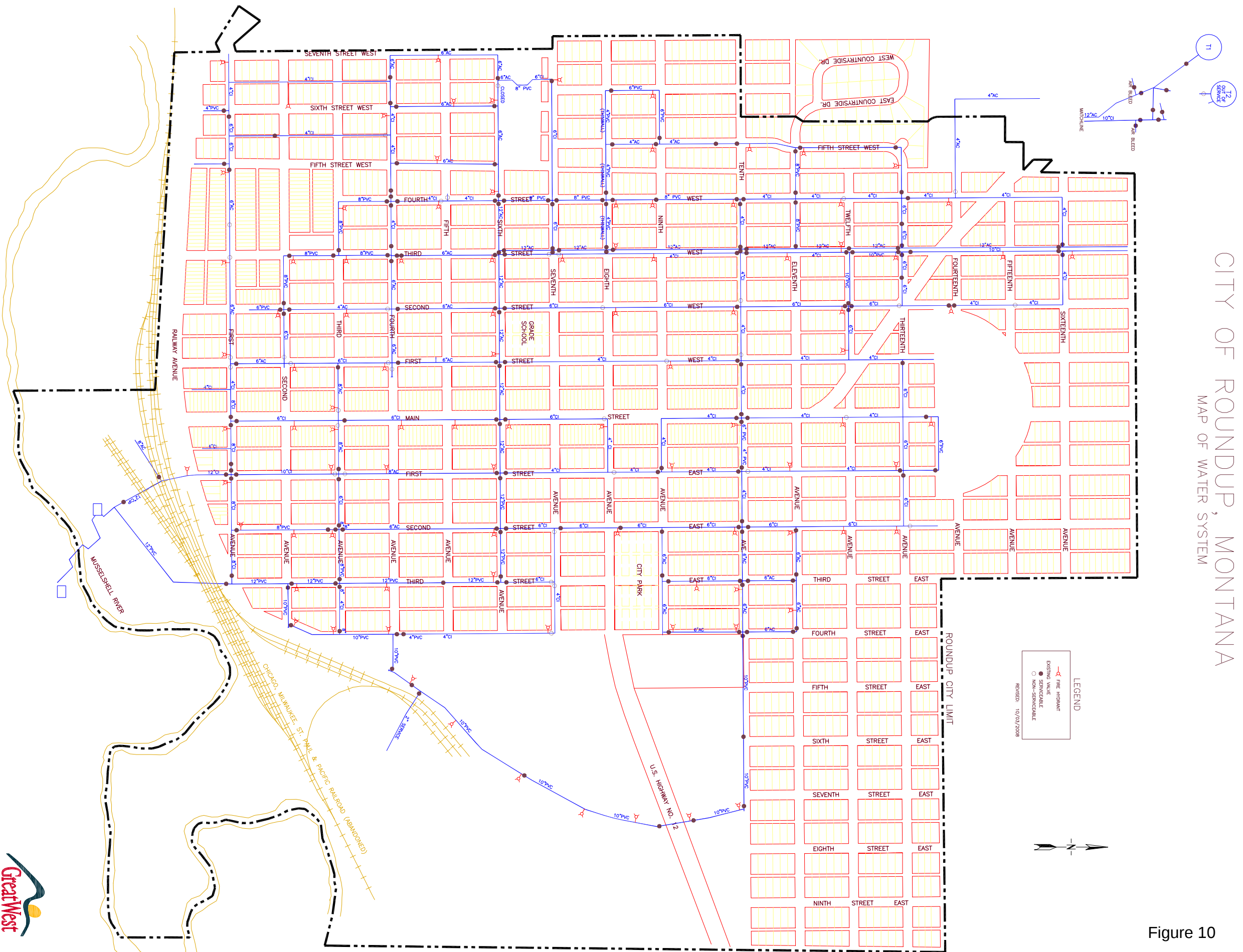
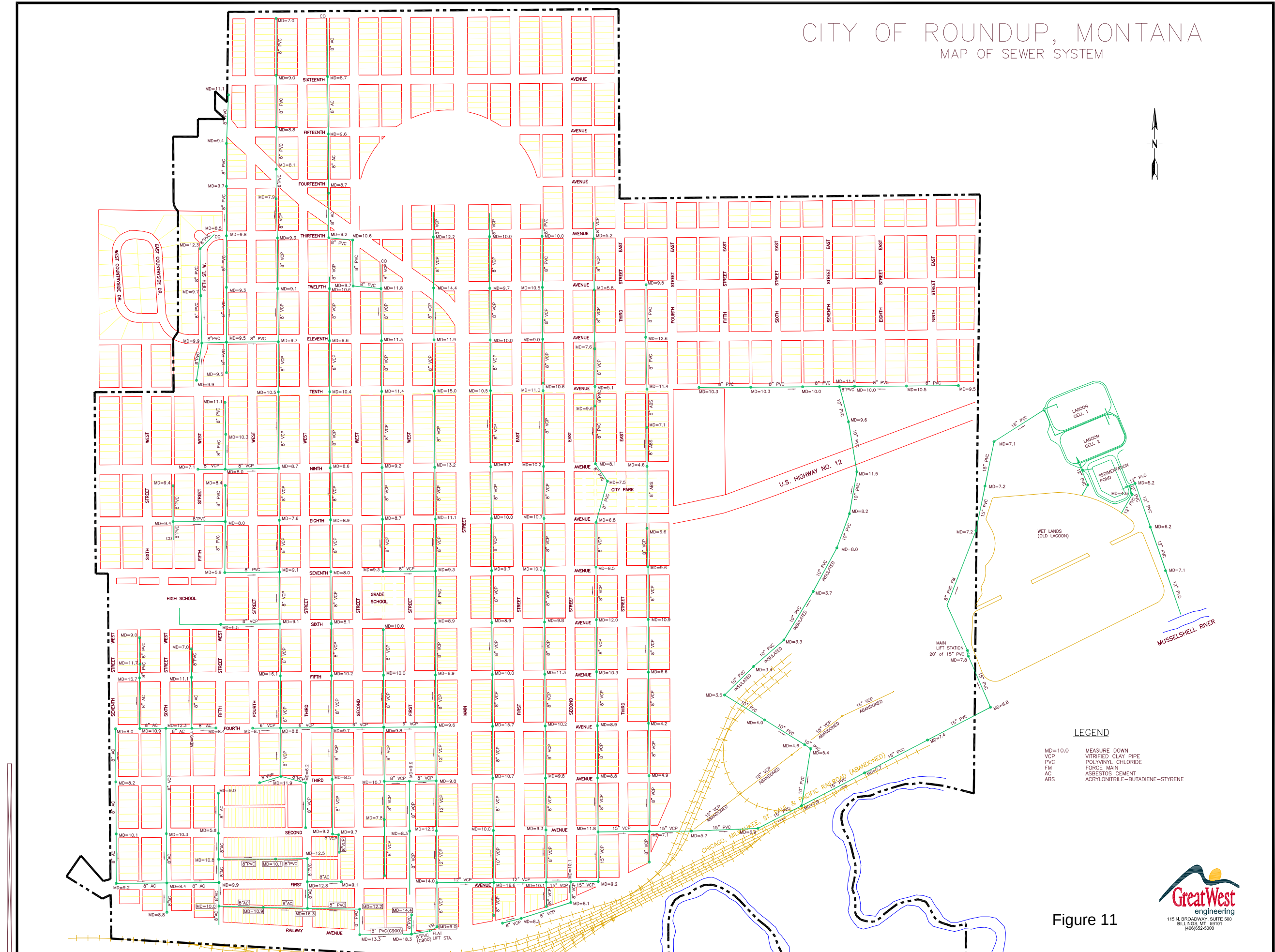
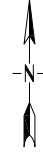


Figure 10

CITY OF ROUNDUP, MONTANA

MAP OF SEWER SYSTEM



LEGEND

MD=10.0	MEASURE DOWN
VCP	VITRIFIED CLAY PIPE
PVC	POLYVINYL CHLORIDE
FM	FORCE MAIN
AC	ASBESTOS CEMENT
ABS	ACRYLONITRILE-BUTADIENE-STYRENE

Figure 11

Zone 3b is currently undeveloped. Platting has already been performed along with zoning. This area has a strong potential for future development. A major stormwater collection system is proposed for this area. A large trunk main (48 to 60 inch) should be installed, with an outfall into the existing crossing beneath Highway 12. This system needs to be installed in order to provide access points for future developments to tie-in.



The Storm Drain Plan did not provide an anticipated schedule for the recommended improvements, but the City has been contacted recently by several developers interested in the area. Consequently, the City requested that Great West Engineering refine the recommendations presented in the Storm Drain Plan and provide updated cost estimates for the necessary improvements. It is the City's intent to pursue funding for the project through the Montana Coal Board.

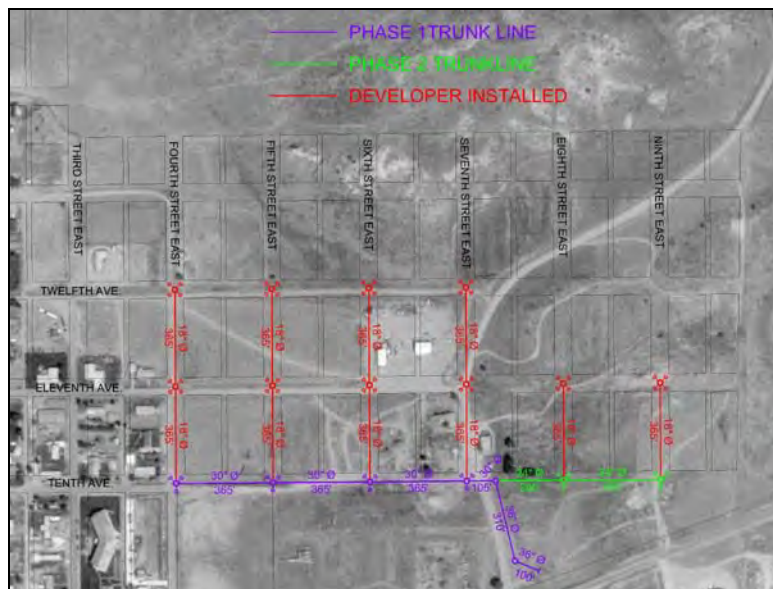
The Figure on the following page depicts the recommended storm drain improvements based upon the results of the storm modeling. The City intends to install the trunkline running along Tenth Avenue and the line to the outfall, but private developers will be required to install lateral lines running up each Street East from the trunkline.

In addition, development in the area is going to occur over a lengthy time period, so the trunkline has been broken into two phases. The

first phase, Phase 1, represents necessary improvements to provide storm drainage to the proposed developments that have already been brought to the City's attention. Phase 1 includes the outfall, a 36 inch pipeline from the storm drain system to the outfall, a 30 inch trunkline running west along Tenth Avenue to Fourth Street East, and inlets at each intersection connected to the trunkline with 18 inch diameter pipelines.

The second phase, Phase 2, includes the eastern portion of the area that would be the last to develop. Improvements included in Phase 2 consist of extending the trunkline in Tenth Avenue east to Ninth Street East with a 24 inch pipeline and inlets at each intersection connected to the trunkline with 18 inch diameter pipelines."

East Side Recommended Improvements



Phase I improvements for the east side area are currently in the final design stage.

Solid Waste

The solid waste department provides garbage collection for the community and is structured as an enterprise fund. Collection services are provided for all residences and businesses within the City Limits. The garbage collected by the City is hauled to a County-wide transfer site where a contracted company hauls the garbage to the landfill in Billings.

Although the City does not maintain a landfill, the City does own and maintain one garbage truck and all of the residence garbage collection cans. Currently, all commercial dumpsters are the private property of business owners and the City would like to purchase dumpsters to eliminate increasing problems with

the various dumpsters. In addition, garbage trucks have a limited useful life due to the extreme wear and tear. A typical truck is anticipated to last approximately 10 years. Since the City has had their truck for 2 years, it is likely to need replacement in another 7-8 years.

Recommendations for improvements to the solid waste system are shown in the 2010 Capital Improvements Plan Update in Appendix J page 18.

Streets

The City of Roundup has over 23 miles of streets and alleys, of which approximately 15 miles are paved. Most of the paved streets are in relatively poor condition and problems include poor drainage, cracks, and potholes. See Figure 15 for a map showing Roundup streets.

The City is set up with a Street Maintenance District. However, funds are insufficient to provide all required maintenance and improvements. Currently, the funds for maintaining and improving the streets are generally limited to the funds from the Street Maintenance District, General Fund, and revenues from the gas tax.

A specific area identified by the City is the reconstruction of street, storm drainage, and sidewalk on 2nd Avenue from the alley east of Main Street to 4th Avenue. The eventual plan is to tie the sidewalk from Main Street into the bike/walking trail at the Fairgrounds. Due to the magnitude of the project, the City plans to phase the project. The first phase would include the construction of new curb, gutter, and sidewalks as necessary. The City has approximately \$150,000 in CTEP funds available to help offset the cost of the first phase. The second phase would then include the repaving of the identified area.

For additional information on streets, improvement recommendations, and funding, see the 2010 Capital Improvements Plan Update in Appendix J page 19.

Parks

The park land in Roundup consists of four facilities that are owned and maintained by the City. War Memorial Park, Ice Cream Hill, Roundup Park, and the Ballfields comprise the entire park system.

The City of Roundup park facilities were addressed in the recent Capital Improvements Plan Update which is included in Appendix J page 27. The facilities are summarized in the following discussion.

Memorial Park --	Grassy parkland area; no improvements planned at this time.
Ice Cream Hill --	Grassy parkland area; no improvements planned at this time.

Roundup Park --	Outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, playground equipment, and picnic areas. The park is in need of some minor upgrades. The swimming pool was recently replaced, but is due for painting in 2010. A winter cover for the pool is under consideration by the City. Dying trees and old swingsets are also a concern.
Ballfields --	The fields consist of little league football fields and baseball/softball fields. No major improvements are anticipated in the near future.

Town of Melstone

Water System

The Town of Melstone water system is currently supplied through an intake on the Musselshell River which has historically experienced problems related to inadequate capacity due to drought conditions. The Town completed a water system Preliminary Engineering Report in 2002 which contained recommendations for improving the supply by developing two new wells south of Melstone in a two phase project. Since that time, the Town has considered the possibility of connecting to the proposed regional water system project called the Musselshell Judith Rural Water System (MJRWS) under the direction of the Central Montana Regional Water Authority (CMRWA). The regional water project is currently in the project planning stage and could conceivably be in the design phase by 2012. However, until this project is completed, the best option for improvements are those recommended in the 2008 water system study (PER).

As noted in the following excerpt from the PER, the regional water system will not be available as a solution for immediate water system needs for Melstone. "Although the rural water system would be a long-term solution to Melstone's ongoing drought concerns as well as water quality problems, the project is not anticipated to reach Melstone for many years. Although the system has determined a source water supply, the project is in the very early planning stages and costs are estimated at over \$100 million. No funding has been secured for the project and even if the project is determined feasible, it could take several years to procure even funding for early phases which would start well and pipeline construction near Utica. Melstone is at the end of the regional system. Thus, it is anticipated that even if the project is determined feasible and funding can be secured, it will be well over 10 years before the pipeline would reach Melstone.

Due to the seriousness of the water supply and treatment problems, it is clearly not feasible for Melstone to wait for the regional system to develop (if it develops further). Hence, this alternative is not considered viable for Melstone at this time and will not be considered in further detail in the Alternative Analysis section."

The following summary of the Melstone Water System is from the 2008 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

“The Town of Melstone is served by a typical grid-type water distribution system with pipe sizes ranging from 4-inches to 8-inches in diameter. The distribution system was upgraded in 1988 and nearly all pipe was replaced with PVC pipe. Figure 3.1 of the PER provides a map of the distribution system with locations of hydrants, the storage tank, and the treatment plant indicated.

The Town of Melstone’s water treatment plant is a package-type plant that was installed in 1986. The plant has not had any major upgrades since that time, but due to the loss of the water supply during several consecutive summers early in the decade, the Town added a raw water storage pond. Normally, water is pumped from an intake situated on the Musselshell River up to the sedimentation pond. Water from the settling pond is drawn down to the recycle ponds and then enters the plant along with the recycled backwash water via process pumps. Polymer and alum are added at a passive flash mixer and go through a two-train passive flocculation system. The water then flows into the clarifiers with tube settlers and then through either of two filters. Finished water flows by gravity into the clearwell, and is pumped out via either or both process pumps.

Once the raw water ponds were constructed in 2002, the Operator began using a portable pump to pump the water from the Musselshell River into the raw water storage ponds during emergency type situations. Another portable pump was then used to pump water from the raw water storage ponds to the recycle ponds. From the recycle ponds the water would continue through the normal water treatment cycle. A schematic of the water treatment plant is provided in Figure 3.2 of the PER.

Modifications to the City’s water system in 2005 included installation of individual meters and connection of Well #1 into the system. The well is located approximately 6 miles south of Melstone and is connected to the system via a 5 mile pipeline that runs parallel to the Melstone-Custer Road into the treatment plant. The new pipeline is HDPE and varies in size from 6-inch to 4-inch. It is important to note that the well water is directed straight into the clearwell and does not undergo full treatment. See Figure 12 on the following page for a schematic of the Melstone Water System.

The Town of Melstone has been working towards improving their water system for many years. Major planning began as early as July 1983 when Sanderson/Stewart/Gaston provided a water system study for Melstone. The report concluded that the Town should construct a package-type water treatment plant, which was constructed in 1986 against recommendations of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

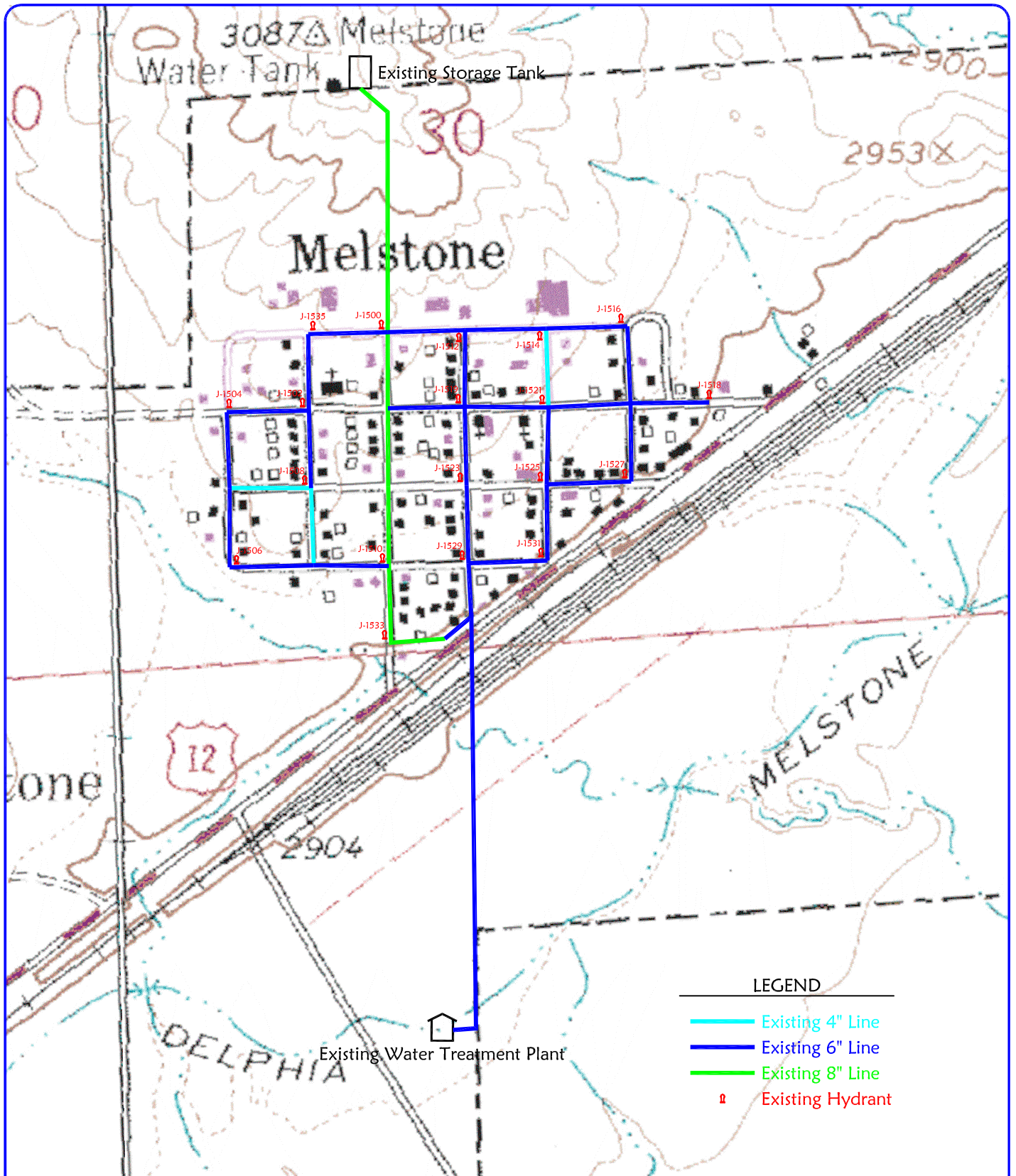
In 1988 the Musselshell River ceased to flow for approximately 1 month. In 2002, a preliminary engineering report (PER) was prepared by Montana Engineering and Administration, now Great West Engineering. The PER was developed to determine the best long-term solution for a water supply source and treatment system for Melstone. The report came to the same conclusion reached in the 1988 Morrison-Maierle report, which was to develop a well in the Fox Hills Aquifer approximately 5 miles from Town.

The Town drilled a well in the Fox Hills aquifer in 2003 approximately 5 miles south of Town. However, the well had a significantly lower yield than originally anticipated (15-18 gpm versus an anticipated 75 gpm). In 2005, a second well (Well #2) was drilled in the Lance formation approximately 100 feet north of the existing well. The yield was only 5-8 gpm, and the well has high iron and relatively high manganese. Two additional test wells were drilled shortly thereafter. Well #3 was approximately ½ mile southwest of Well #1 and Well #4 was approximately 1 ½ miles northeast of Well #1. Unfortunately, no water was found in either well.

A last chance effort at an attempt for a groundwater source was made in December 2006 when the Town constructed a test well (Well #6T) approximately 10 miles west of Melstone (this was the second preferred alternative in the 2002 PER). The well was found to produce approximately 85 gpm and was determined to have adequate water quality for drinking without any treatment (outside of disinfection). The Town would like to consider developing two production wells in this location. However, before the water can be put to use, it will have to be piped nearly 12 miles to Town.

To re-evaluate the alternatives for the water system, the Town retained Great West Engineering, Inc. to complete this Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). The report included a detailed analysis of the existing water facilities and specifically identified deficiencies within the system. Considering all efforts completed to date, various alternatives were developed to correct the deficiencies. Alternatives considered viable were analyzed in detail and ranked using various weighted criteria such as life cycle cost, technical feasibility, and environmental impacts. Alternative 2b was selected as the preferred alternative for water supply improvements. With a preferred alternative selected, a funding strategy was developed.

Alternative 2b includes the construction of two production wells in the Fox Hills aquifer approximately 10 miles west of Melstone. The wells would be connected to the existing water treatment plant (clearwell) via an approximately 12-mile long pipeline along the route identified in Figure 7.2 in the PER. As part of the improvements, a new wellhouse would be constructed to house the new chlorination facility and well controls. A new telemetry system would provide all controls for the system. In addition to the new wells, the existing Well #2 would be connected to the system and modifications would be made to the existing well control vault to provide an automatic gas



ME&A
Montana Engineering & Administration, P.C.
115 N Broadway, Suite 202 Billings, MT 59101
(406) 652-5000

TOWN OF MELSTONE
EXISTING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

monitor and ventilation system. Other improvements to the existing system would include installing some additional air release valves on the existing 5-mile well pipeline.

It is also important to note that the Town has been working towards a land agreement with the land owner of Wellsite #6 for over a year. Due to some concerns of reaching an amenable agreement, two alternate wellsite locations have been identified. Wellsite #7 is adjacent to Wellsite #6, thus, proposed improvements would be nearly identical. If Wellsite #8 were used instead, the project would require approximately an additional mile of piping and the only route available would be along the Highway 12 right-of-way. In this event, cost estimates would need to be revised and the funding strategy reconsidered. In any case, the preferred alternative is to provide a groundwater source. If no agreement could be reached with any of the land owners, then the Town would fall back to the next preferred alternative of microfiltration.

In summary, the Town decided on the following course of action:

- Plan A: Construct 2 new Fox Hills wells at Wellsite #6 and/or Wellsite #7 and provide a new pipeline following Route “b” — Alternative 2b (#1 ranking alternative)
- Plan B: Construct 2 new Fox Hills wells at Wellsite #8 and provide a new pipeline following Route “a” — Alternative 2a (#2 ranking alternative)
- Plan C: Construct a new microfiltration plant with a new raw water storage pond and sedimentation pond (#3 ranking alternative)

See Figure 13 on the following page for a schematic of proposed improvements.

Wastewater System

The wastewater system was discussed in the 2002 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The following discussion, which is primarily from the CIP is the most recent description of the system.

“Due to the imminent threat of losing the Town’s only water supply, the wastewater system is not at the forefront of the community’s concerns. The following table summarizes the components of the wastewater system, and the following sub-sections discuss them in more detail.

Wastewater System Inventory

Item	Units	Approximate Quantity	Comments
6" to 8" Clay Collection Pipe	LF	7,500	As-builts unavailable. Installed in 1956.
Manholes	EA	20	As-builts unavailable. Installed in 1956.
1.2 Acre Lagoon	EA	1	Constructed 1974.
3.0 Acre Lagoon	EA	1	Constructed 1974.
12" PVC Transmission Line	LF	5,000	Installed in 1974.

A recent inspection performed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does raise some concerns about the system, however. The wastewater lagoons are going to require the attention of the Town in the future.

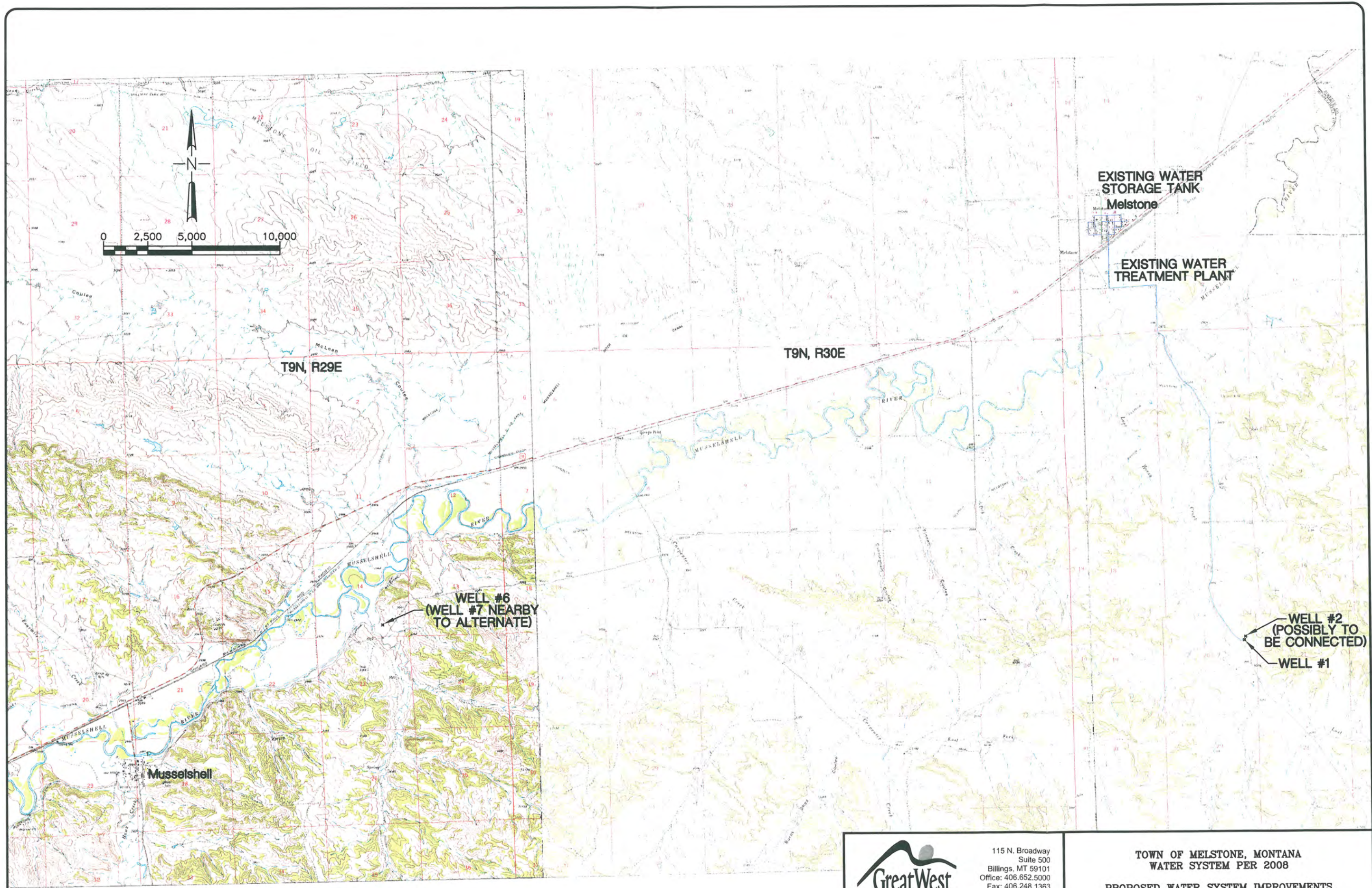
Lagoons

Melstone has two lagoons in series that were constructed in 1974, but the second lagoon is currently not in use. The lagoons were constructed with the ability to discharge to the Musselshell River but are operated as a total retention system. Consequently, the Town no longer maintains a discharge permit.

The DEQ performed an operation and maintenance inspection of Melstone's wastewater treatment system on October 2, 2002, focusing upon the wastewater lagoons. The inspection found several major deficiencies with the lagoons including:

- Areas of the dike showed erosion and sloughing which could lead to an uncontrolled discharge. The dikes also had excessive vegetation and animal burrows present.
- The DEQ performed a rough estimate for the water balance that showed a detention time of 134 days. This is far short of the required detention time of 365 days for a total retention lagoon, indicating the lagoon may be leaking excessively. Calculations performed by ME&A resulted in an even lower detention time. These figures are included with the DEQ report.
- The general operation and maintenance procedures and practices for the system need to be updated.

The DEQ report concludes by recommending a facilities plan be developed for the wastewater system to more accurately determine the condition of the system. This facility plan could also be adapted into a preliminary engineering report (PER) that could be used for grant applications if major improvements are necessary. The cost of rebuilding and lining the lagoons could exceed \$1



115 N. Broadway
Suite 500
Billings, MT 59101
Office: 406.652.5000
Fax: 406.248.1363
www.greatwesteng.com

TOWN OF MELSTONE, MONTANA
WATER SYSTEM PER 2008
PROPOSED WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

million in capital costs alone. The Town would not be able to feasibly undertake such a project without grant assistance.

Recommendations

The capacity of the wastewater treatment system ranked as the fourth highest priority in the Needs Assessment. While the water system and a reliable source of water is by far the communities most immediate need, the long term plan for Melstone should include the development of a wastewater facility plan. Preparing a facility plan that conforms to the PER requirements of the Uniform Application Guidelines for Montana Public Facility Projects will cost approximately \$25,000. Half of this will be eligible for funding with a TSEP Planning Grant.

Collection System

The Town of Melstone is situated such that the entire wastewater collection system is gravity fed and there is no need for lift stations. The collection system is clay piping that was installed in 1956. The current operator reported no back-ups or similar problems in her two years maintaining the system.

Recommendations:

Although the condition of the piping is unknown, no problems have been reported, and the focus should be placed upon the lagoons. Additionally, a comprehensive wastewater plan will look at the collection system in detail as well as the lagoons.”

Streets Inventory

A street inventory and condition analysis was performed on the streets of Melstone. The inspection was conducted following the method outlined in “The Mini Capital Improvements Plan for Small Towns, Third Edition” published by the Montana Department of Commerce.



All the streets in Melstone have an aggregate surface, commonly called gravel roads. Consequently, each street was evaluated for seven distresses commonly found in gravel roads and the ride quality. The seven distresses include:

1. Cross Section: The road is evaluated for a proper crown that carries water to the side of the road with no ponding.
2. Drainage: The roadside drainage is inspected for areas of ponding water, overgrowth, or erosion. Poor drainage is a large contributing factor to the deterioration of unsurfaced roads.

3. Washboarding: Washboards are a common distress found on gravel roads, usually located at intersections or hills.
4. Dust: The loss of fine aggregates through dust can contribute to the deterioration of gravel roads.
5. Potholes: Potholes are common distress that can rapidly disintegrate a road if not repaired.
6. Ruts: Ruts are a depression in the wheel path of traffic that can indicate soft or unstable road subgrades.
7. Loose Aggregate: As larger particles of the aggregate are loosened, they can form berms of loose particles in the center of the road or along the shoulders.

Based upon the percentage of the street experiencing any of the seven distresses, distress points are assessed to the road. The distress points from each category are totaled and subtracted from 100 to calculate a street condition index (SCI). An SCI of 100 would represent a “perfect” street with no distresses. Consequently, the lower the SCI of a roadway is, the worse the condition of the road.

Each street in Melstone was evaluated in the field based upon this method.

Evaluation

Overall, the streets in Melstone are in good shape. The majority of observed distresses were common to similar streets, such as washboarding and potholes. Very few structural distresses, such as poor cross section or drainage, were found, and no need for major reconstruction was observed during the evaluation. A regular maintenance program will correct these more common distresses and help preserve the condition of the roads.

The following table offers a summary of the streets in Melstone and their calculated SCI's. (See Figure 16 for a map of Melstone streets)

Melstone Streets

Stree	Length (feet) ¹	Average Width (feet)	Area (square feet)	Condition Index
3rd Avenue	1,440	22	31,680	56
Fergus Street	1,870	22	41,140	60
Main Street	1,060	32	33,920	62
5th Avenue	2,480	22	54,560	69
1st Street West	1,340	22	29,480	75
2nd Avenue	300	22	6,600	76
1st Street East	780	22	17,160	76
4th Avenue	1,990	22	43,780	77
6th Avenue	1,900	22	41,800	82
2nd Street West	1,610	22	35,420	82
Cascade Street	1,080	22	23,760	88
2nd Street East	210	22	4,620	89
¹ Intersections are included in the lengths of both North-South and East-West Streets for ease of planning maintenance.				

It is interesting to note that comments from the Needs Survey completed by the community in 2002 indicated three specific areas that require more attention than the other streets. These three areas are Main Street, near the Post Office (corner of Third Avenue and First Street West), and Fergus Street. The street inventory showed these three streets to have the lowest SCI scores of the street network, reaffirming the observations noted in the Needs Survey.

Recommendations:

The maintenance program for the streets should be more regular to keep the streets from deteriorating. Each street should be graded at least twice a year, typically in the spring and the fall. Particularly bad areas of deterioration, such as large potholes, may require more frequent maintenance as they occur.

Solid Waste

The Town does not collect solid waste or maintain a solid waste department. Residents of Melstone utilize a transfer station located west of town that is operated by Musselshell County and are individually responsible for transferring solid waste to the transfer station. There is also a transfer site in Musselshell

Although the Town does not collect trash, many of the additional comments provided by respondents to the Needs Assessment Survey dealt with the perceived need to clean the community up of trash, old cars, and miscellaneous junk. Question 23 in the survey specifically asked whether an

ordinance regarding the cleaning of lots was necessary. 67% of the respondents replied that an ordinance was necessary, and “Trash Pick Up and Disposal” tied for the sixth highest ranking priority. One respondent stated that such an ordinance exists but is not enforced.

Recommendations:

The Town Council should investigate the existence and/or need for an ordinance regarding the clean-up of lots throughout the community.

Community of Musselshell

Water System

The Musselshell Public Water System (PWS) serves approximately 80 people through 45 service connections, at a pumping rate of approximately 10,000 to 15,000 gallons per day. The Musselshell PWS is classified as a community public water system since it serves at least 25 of the same people every day. Information on the water system was obtained from correspondence in the DEQ Public Water Supply Section files including the most recent sanitary survey, completed in 2002.

Groundwater is provided by two wells completed in consolidated sandstone bedrock. Water from the wells is pumped to a 1,000-gallon storage tank outside town. The PWS draws from two wells. The Musselshell supply wells are located at the southeast end of town, and were completed in the mid-1970s. The wells are 340 and 360 feet deep, and each well is rated to yield 35 gallons per minute.

The Musselshell PWS wells are completed in consolidated sandstone bedrock of the Fort Union Formation. This aquifer is recharged by infiltration of precipitation and surface water in the Hawk Creek drainage of the Bull Mountains south of Musselshell. Based on the results of a groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDISW) study completed in 2002, the source water is classified as groundwater. According to the Source Water Protection Program (DEQ, 1999) the source water aquifer is considered to have low sensitivity to potential contamination.

(Source: Source Water Protection Plan; DEQ; January, 2005)

The distribution system consists of 2” and 3” plastic mains and the 1,000 gallon tank that maintains constant pressure to the system. Water system improvements needed are water meters, a storage tank, and update of some of the old main lines.

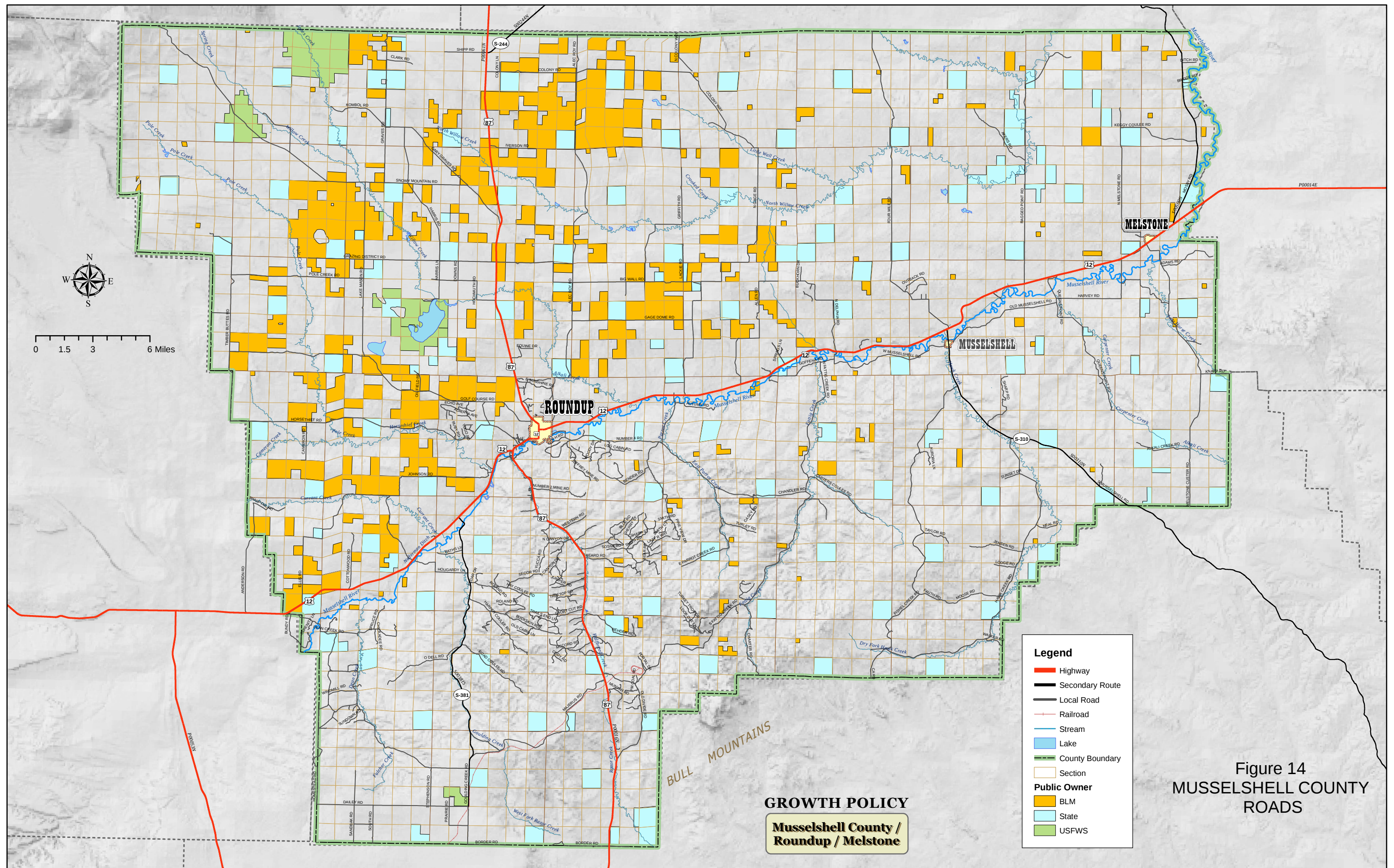
Wastewater System

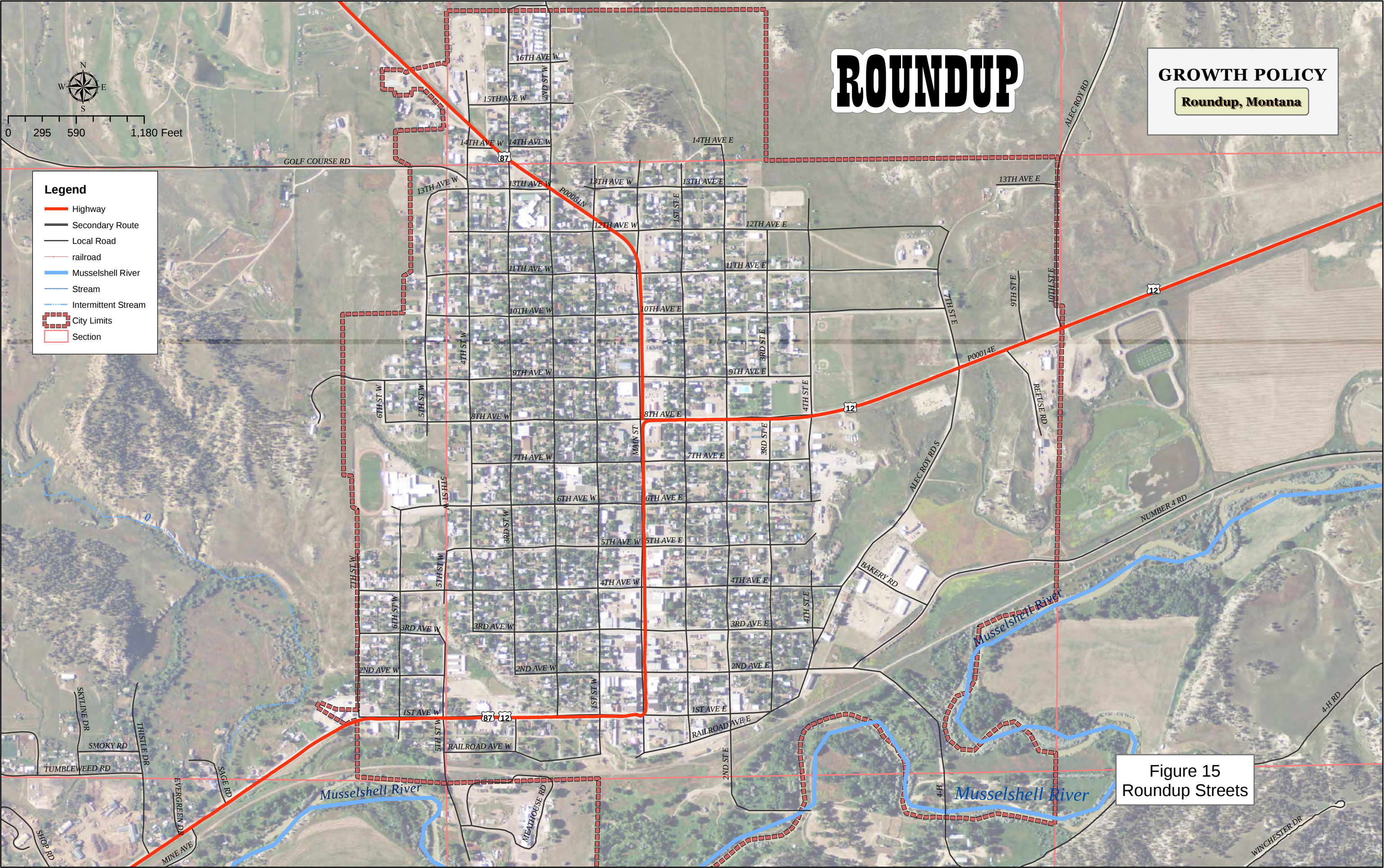
The community of Musselshell does not have a central sewer system and depends solely on individual septic systems for treatment of wastewater.

Transportation

See the transportation section in the 2003 Musselshell County Growth Policy
– Appendix H, page 50.

Roads and streets in Musselshell County, Roundup, Melstone, and the community of Musselshell are shown in Figure 14, Figure 15, Figure 16, and Figure 17 on the following pages.







GROWTH POLICY

Melstone, Montana

Legend

- Highway 12
- Local Road
- Canal
- Town Bndry

MELSTONE

Figure 16
Melstone Streets





NATURAL RESOURCES

Summary of Trends

Mineral and Oil and Gas Resources

Coal

In 2003 coal development in the Bull Mountains was predicted to include the construction of two 350 megawatt coal-fired power plants to burn coal from the proposed Bull Mountain coal mine. In addition, a 35 mile rail spur would be constructed to connect the mine with the BNSF Railway line at Broadview. At the time, the power plants were anticipated to be completed in 2006 and coal production and shipping would begin within the year. Impacts from the mine and power plant were considered in an impact study prepared by Dodge Data Systems and included an estimate for 250 full time employees at the mine and another 150 for the power plant. For financial reasons, the power plant and coal development project did not occur as predicted. However, development of the coal mine and rail spur moved forward under different ownership over the last two years, the new mine is currently in production, and the rail spur has been completed. Boich Cos., a coal company based in Columbus, Ohio, and FirstEnergy Corp., a utility based in Akron, Ohio, purchased the Bull Mountain Coal Mine, renaming it the Signal Peak Energy Mine.

“The Signal Peak Mine is an underground coal mine in Musselshell County, Montana, that opened in September 2009. Formerly known as the Bull Mountain mine, Signal Peak is operated by Signal Peak Energy and has newly built access to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad that leads to the BNSF's main rail line in Broadview, Montana. The 35 mile line was built at a cost of \$105 million.

The Boich Group and FirstEnergy invested \$400 million to reopen the mine, which will produce an estimated 12.5 million tons of coal annually by the end of 2010. On December 3, 2009 the companies announced that they planned to sell much of the coal to growing Asian markets. Additionally, FirstEnergy has a 15-year contract to buy up to 10 million tons of coal annually from the mine and has tentative contracts with rail haulers. The FirstEnergy coal will supply four power plants along Lake Erie and be marketed to other power plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania.”

Oil and Gas

Musselshell County's oil production in 2008 according to the DNRC Oil and Gas Conservation Division was 152,000 barrels. This compares to over 259,000 barrels in 2000 and 278,000 barrels in 1998. This represents less than 1% of the total oil production in the State of Montana. There was no gas production in 2008 for the County except for that recorded as associated gas from oil production.

Currently, there is increasing interest in oil and gas exploration in the region. There has been interest in land use change already.

Wind Resources

Montana has wind, lots of wind. The state is ranked among the top five for wind power potential and several utility-scale wind farms are in operation. Montana currently has about 375 mega-watt capacity of commercial wind installed. But the state ranks 18th in actual generation.

Musselshell County is in an area that has potential for development of wind energy resources according to wind resource estimates for the state. Broad areas of the county are rated in wind power Class 3 which is considered a fair resource potential, and isolated areas in the northern part of the county are rated in Class 4 or Class 5 which are considered good to excellent. There is a considerable amount of public land in the northern part of the county that represents a potential source of wind development that could possibly be combined with private interests for commercial wind projects. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation supports wind energy development on state school trust lands which could offer additional incentive for locating facilities in areas identified and tested for wind development. Other large projects such as the Judith Gap Wind Farm have been successfully developed using available state land for the project. Although commercial scale wind development is not currently located in the county, there has been increasing interest in providing local support for developing this resource.

Water Resources

Public Water Systems

Public water systems in Musselshell County are monitored by the Department of Environmental Quality according to the type of source and number of residents served. The information is current through December 2007 as shown in the following table. Detailed water system descriptions for Roundup, Melstone, and Musselshell are included in the infrastructure section of this report.

Musselshell County Public Water Supply Report

PWSID	Primary Name	City	Resident Pop.	Non-Res Pop.	Source ID	Source Name	Source Type
MT0003690	Brandin Iron Saloon	Roundup	0	25	WL002	Well	Groundwater
MT0003927	Conoco Convenience Center	Roundup	0	200	SWP	Roundup, City of	Purchased
MT0001534	Mecca Bar	Roundup	2	25	WL002	Well # 1	Groundwater
MT0000290	Melstone, Town of	Melstone	170	11	IN002	Musselshell River	Surface Water
MT0000296	Musselshell Water System	Musselshell	80	0	WL002	Well #1	Groundwater
					WL003	Well #2	Groundwater
MT0003383	Picchionis IGA	Roundup	0	300	SWP	Roundup Water Department	Purchased
MT0003534	Roundup Memorial Hospital	Roundup	37	15	SWP	Roundup Water Department	Purchased
MT0000321	Roundup Water Department	Roundup	1808	0	WL002	Infiltration Well	Groundwater
					WL003	Into Mine Shaft	Groundwater
MT0001533	Tumbleweed Saloon	Roundup	2	40	WL002	Well # 1	Groundwater
MT0003767	Van Dykes Grocery Store	Roundup	0	25	SWP	Roundup Water Department	Purchased

Regional Water System

The Central Montana Regional Water Authority (CMRWA) was formed in 2004 to investigate the possibility of obtaining high quality water at reasonable rates based on a regional water delivery system. The water system will cover a significant part of central Montana serving approximately 6,000 residents initially, and will eventually serve over 7,500 residents in the service area. The following summary of the proposal is from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Central Montana Regional Water Authority

"A municipal water project providing water for Hobson, Broadview, Judith Gap, Harlowton, Ryegate, Lavina, Roundup and Melstone from the Madison Aquifer Formation.

"High quality drinking water is a given for most Montanans. We simply go to the faucet and turn it on. . . "

However, this is not a luxury in many areas of the state. The problem continues to worsen, especially in the Central Montana area, due to many years of drought. The Central Montana Regional Water Authority hopes to help communities in Central Montana that have been plagued for years by low water quality and quantity. Communities along the Musselshell River drainage have long had difficulty in obtaining reliable quantity and quality

water sources. Complicated over the last five years by the drought, the City of Roundup and Musselshell County began work on a project through the Resource Conservation & Development Program in April 2001. The municipal water project will provide water for Hobson, Broadview, Judith Gap, Harlowton, Ryegate, Lavina, Roundup and Melstone from the Madison Aquifer Formation on the northeast end of the Little Belt Mountains . Musselshell County was granted a total of \$500,000 in two separate grants from the Montana Coal Board to drill an exploratory test well and complete a feasibility study for a new system.

Completing a well test to determine the quantity and quality of the water found is the next step. The system hopes to deliver up to 1,200 gallons of water per minute, providing drinking water to the partner communities. Currently, many of the small communities either have no public water system with individual wells, or operate their own public water system plagued by persistent drought or water barely fit for consumption. Due to these concerns, and the ever-changing EPA and state standards, the Central Montana Regional Water Authority was greatly needed.

The Central Montana Regional Water Authority was formally established in September 2004, with a board of directors representing each community to be served on the regional system.

The group defined distinct benefits of a regional water system.

- Residents and communities will not absorb the costs of upgrading numerous smaller water facilities to keep up with water quality standards.
- A greater number of regional system users defrays the cost of individual communities upgrading their own facility.
- This system will provide jobs, not only during construction, but also for ongoing operation and maintenance.
- Total water consumption by all communities will be substantially less than if each community provides water treatment.
- A dependable, high-quality drinking water source provides an incentive for business and industry to consider relocation to Central Montana.
- An alternative water source for livestock.

The regional water system will begin near Utica and go northeast to Hobson and Moore, south to Judith Gap and Harlowton, then east to serve Ryegate, Lavina, Broadview, Roundup and Melstone. A core transmission line, extending 220 miles, will deliver water directly to these communities.

At an estimated cost of \$90-100 million, the project will pursue funding from federal, state and local entities. Securing funding from these sources

will enable community residents to receive clean, safe water at an affordable rate.

The Central Montana Regional Water Authority system is the most cost-effective and efficient means of providing the luxury of water quality and quantity needed in the communities served.

The Central Montana Regional Water Authority's mission is to provide quality, quantity and dependable water at a reasonable cost to the users in central Montana.”

Since the DNRC summary of the proposed project was written as shown above, a test well was drilled 3,700 feet deep into the Madison Aquifer near Utica in 2005. The test well demonstrated that the aquifer is capable of producing an adequate quantity of high quality drinking water for the CMRWA. Based on this testing and reporting, the CMRWA received its first water right for the project from the State of Montana in 2007. The project planning process is moving forward and is scheduled to be completed in 2011. Federal authorization is the next step, followed by the project design which should begin in 2012.

Groundwater

Since 2003 there have been 494 wells drilled in Musselshell County. The following summary from the Groundwater Information Center (GWIC) is the most current data showing a depth summary and reported water use by type up to January 2010.

Overview of MUSSELSHELL County Wells

At-A-Glance	
Number of wells in County	3103
Deepest well on record (feet)	9335
Shallowest well on record (feet)	4.2
Most recent well on record	7/21/2010
Oldest well on record	1/1/1890
Number of water quality samples	204
Number of measured water levels	63166
Statewide Monitoring Network wells	17

Histograms for MUSSELSHELL County

Wells by Year		Wells by Depth		Reported Water Use	
The table below shows the breakdown of wells reportedly drilled in the county during the last 20 years.		The table below shows the number of wells that fall between the depth ranges in the left hand column. All depths are listed in feet below ground surface.		The table below shows the number of each type of water use that has been reported for wells in this county.	
2010	4	0 - 99	960	UNKNOWN	110
2009	38	100 - 199	871	INJECTION	1
2008	38	200 - 299	560	INDUSTRIAL	8
2007	77	300 - 399	291	OTHER	11
2006	57	400 - 499	170	PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY	18
2005	49	500 - 599	79	TEST WELL	12
2004	73	600 - 699	64	UNUSED	13
2003	157	700 - 799	20	FIRE PROTECTION	3
2002	70	800 - 899	17	MONITORING	279
2001	52	900 - 999	0	COMMERCIAL	1
2000	48	> 1000	71	IRRIGATION	81
1999	43			RESEARCH	13
1998	62			GEOTECH	67
1997	41			STOCKWATER	1679
1996	36			DOMESTIC	1437
1995	26			* Total	3733
1994	39			* Number may differ from county total since one well may have several reported water uses.	
1993	68				
1992	77				
1991	68				

Source: Groundwater Information Center

Surface Water and Irrigation

The Musselshell River is the primary surface water feature in the county and is an important resource for wildlife habitat and as a source of irrigation for agricultural uses along the river corridor. The distribution of irrigated land is concentrated on several stretches of the river as shown on the Land Use and Public Ownership map in Figure 6 of this report (page 25). According to information from the U.S. Census of Agriculture, there were nearly 55,000 acres of irrigated land in the Musselshell River hydrologic unit in 2002 compared to over 70,000 acres in 2007 illustrating the continued importance of the use of the river for irrigation.

The Lower Musselshell Conservation District assessment of the Musselshell River conducted in 2002 identified several critical conditions of the river channel that continue to affect water quality and the value of the river for agricultural as well as aquatic and riparian resources. Problems include restriction of the flood plain by roads and railroads and adverse impacts from

in-stream irrigation diversion structures and infestations of noxious weeds along the banks. The assessment was a combined effort of the Upper Musselshell, Lower Musselshell, Petroleum, and Garfield Conservation Districts. The Districts partnered with local landowners and State and Federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the stream channel condition, riparian vegetation health, and water quality. The recommendations of the study for improving the watershed were summarized and listed under the following three general headings:

- Increase the buffer area vegetated with native riparian species and river access to its historical flood plain.
- Treat, Control and Eliminate noxious weeds that infest the riparian area along the Musselshell River.
- Reduce impact on the river from structures, irrigation diversions and rip-rap.

For additional discussion of water management and irrigation, see the natural resources section of Appendix G.

Soils

The Soil Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a report for the Musselshell County Soil Survey that covers the planning area. "The soil survey is an inventory and evaluation of the soils in the survey area and can be used to adjust land uses to the limitations and potentials of natural resources and the environment. Also it can help avoid soil-related failures in land uses." The information is useful in planning for management of soils for crops, pasture and rangeland as well as sites for buildings, sanitary facilities, recreation and wildlife habitat.

The NRCS report contains tables showing a list of soils classifications and a corresponding series of tables that give information about the suitability of the soil for specific uses including, pastureland, irrigated and non-irrigated cropland, crop yields, land capability and woodlands. Soils are also rated for their potential to support building foundations, sanitary facilities, as a source of construction materials such as gravel for road building, and water feature embankments. A soil classification map can be obtained from NRCS along with the soils map unit descriptions for the Musselshell County area. The information shown on the map is available on the internet at the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) site, and includes maps and detailed tables for the planning area. The soil descriptions and locations are also available at the local NRCS office, 109 Railroad Ave East, in Roundup

Timber

Timber resources in Musselshell County are primarily located on private land in the Bull Mountains in the southern part of the County. Although the timber resources in the region compose only a small part of the state total, the timber industry continues to contribute to the local economy. In 2004, the acreage in timber represented about 21% of the total agricultural land in the county according to data from the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS). The following summary from the Central Montana Resource Conservation and Development Area Plan shows the relative importance of timber in the region.

“In 2004, the Montana Wood Products Association reported that about 9,300 of the 25,200 total manufacturing jobs in Montana were in the wood products industry. This didn’t include truckers, repairs and supply or other indirect employment. Annually, the manufacturing segment of Montana’s economy contributes about \$4 billion, or 20 percent of the total of the state’s economy. The wood products industry contributes about \$970 million, or 6 percent of the state’s economy, primarily in Western Montana. The timber industry in the six-county SMDC region is not a huge sector of the economy, especially after having lost its two major lumber mills in the last decade. Roundup still has a substantial mill in operation, and there are several small mills in Fergus, Judith Basin and Wheatland Counties, but the timber industry in the region is a much smaller segment of the economy than in decades past. Although new housing growth is slowing in many parts of the United States, it is still on the upswing in Montana, especially in the western part of the state. The Lewistown area approved a number of new subdivisions in the last few years, and there is a marked increase in the building of new homes. New homes mean a demand for more wood products, but the U.S. currently imports almost 40 percent of its wood products!

The following chart compares timber harvested on private lands in 1997, 2001 and 2004 in the Central Montana RC&D region. However, these figures don’t take into account the thousands of tons of pulp that have also been removed from private lands. Recent trends show that timber harvest is almost non-existent.

**Board feet of timber harvested on private lands in the
Central Montana RC&D Region**

County	1997	2001	2004
Fergus	21,000,000	14,000,000	11,020,000
Golden Valley	1,000,000	1,200,000	192,000
Judith Basin	2,100,000	977,048	79,000
Musselshell	16,000,000	5,000,000	5,299,000
Petroleum	343,998	0	0
Wheatland	895,798	1,300,000	0

The state’s private land harvest decreased by 3.26 percent from 2000 to 2001. The state increased its private land board feet harvest by more than 13 percent in 1992, 7+ percent in 1993; nearly 11 percent in 1994, before falling by nearly 2 percent in 1995, decreasing nearly 12 percent in 1996. The state harvest increased by 2 percent in 1997, dropped nearly 6 percent the following year, and increased by more than 6 percent in 1999. The ten-year average showed a decrease overall of nearly 11 percent.

Noxious Weeds

Data showing the presence of noxious weeds in the area was produced through the statewide Weed Survey and Mapping System Project which focused on the distribution and density of five important noxious weeds. Leafy Spurge, Dalmatian Toadflax, Sulfur Cinquefoil, Russian Knapweed and Spotted Knapweed were surveyed for each county providing results for section based maps.

In spring of 1997, the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund requested that the Weed Survey and Mapping System Project take on a special activity, focused on surveying the distribution of these five important noxious weeds within Montana counties. This section-based project is in addition to the statewide 1:24,000 inventory which is the major objective of the Montana Noxious Weed Survey and Mapping System. The section-based project will provide statewide data at a faster rate than can be obtained from the entire system, which covers more than 16 weeds at a much greater level of detail. Until more counties become trained in and begin to apply the techniques of the larger system, projects such as this section-based survey will be needed to fill in any current gaps.

The section-based project was undertaken with the following goals:

- to produce useful distribution data for leafy spurge, Dalmatian toadflax, sulfur cinquefoil, Russian knapweed, and spotted knapweed.
- to record for each section in each county the status of each of the weeds: present, absent or status unknown.
- to accurately calculate the total number of sections infested for the five selected weeds.
- to provide the results on section-based maps for each county

Results of the survey for Musselshell County showed that for the 1,981 sections selected, spotted Knapweed had the highest occurrence and was listed as present on 11% of the area surveyed. Leafy Spurge was second at 3.1%.

For additional information on requirements for control of noxious weeds, see the weed ordinance section from the 2003 Growth Policy excerpt in Appendix G. Natural resources and trends are further discussed in the original Growth Policy and highlights are included in Appendix G.

Wildlife

The Musselshell County area contains a diverse cross section of land forms and vegetation types that are typical in the semi-arid environment found in the rugged and rolling terrain of eastern Montana. The local geography includes riverside riparian areas, coulees, and dry sloping hills providing habitat for a diverse wildlife population.

Riparian vegetation is commonly honeysuckle, wild rose, willow, and isolated groves of cottonwood trees. The Musselshell widens between Barber and Roundup, a number of irrigation diversions reduce streamflows, and the water becomes warmer.

For its last 90 miles, the river broadens to 100 feet, accompanied by a rapid increase in turbidity. Vegetation adjacent to the river thins due to the arid climate, livestock grazing, and unstable and saline soils. However, the warmwater portion of the Musselshell supports a substantial resident fish population and provides spawning areas for sauger and channel catfish from Fort Peck Reservoir. Several species of game fish inhabit the Musselshell River and its tributaries within the planning area

Shoreline areas provide a great variety of wildlife species depends on the riparian zone immediately adjacent to the riverbank and its tributaries. Among the more common species

found in the riparian zone are white-tailed deer and pheasant. Bald eagles nest in cottonwood snags. In the valley areas, species include the ground squirrel and mule deer. Fur bearing animals including beaver, muskrat and mink are found in suitable habitat, as are the fox, coyotes, and badgers.

Black bear and mountain lion occupy the forests of the Little Snowy Mountains in the northwest corner of the county and in lesser numbers in the Bull Mountain area. The rangeland area provides habitat for antelope, whitetail and mule deer, and game birds. Pheasant, Sharptail Grouse, and Alga Hungarian Partridge are found in areas outside of the more densely populated areas that provide necessary shelter, cover, and winter-feed. As the landscape is converted from agriculture and open prairie to urban use, the intensity of use of the land by native wildlife is gradually decreasing. This trend is projected to continue.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program data base provides information regarding the current status of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur within the study area. The following table shows that there are four animal species in the Dawson County area, four fish species, two bird species, and five plant species that are on the list. The Bald Eagle is listed as “Threatened” by the USFS and “Sensitive” by the BLM.

For additional discussion of wildlife, see Wildlife Habitat in Appendix G of this report.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Preface

Information from the 2010 Musselshell County Growth Survey (see Appendix A), public meetings, and local agencies highlighted recent trends and community attitudes in Musselshell County providing insight into development issues and problems that should be addressed in the Growth Policy. The issues are addressed in the Goals, and Objectives listed in this section of the report.

The 2003 Growth Policy listed the goals and objectives under four major headings, or primary goals. The first goal established the county position regarding topics relating to the *economy*; the second considered needs for *residential development*; the third subject focused on *public infrastructure*; and the fourth goal considered the need to preserve and improve the *cultural and natural environment*. The 2010 Growth Policy Update includes an extension of these topics incorporating the original goals and objectives with additional focus on the issues highlighted during the recent public input process and data update.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives listed in this section of the Growth Policy serve to establish general guiding principles in matters concerning planning for the future of Musselshell County. The list includes policy statements that provide a reference or means of achieving what the governing body has adopted as a desirable path to guide the citizens in the long term. Public officials, local government staff, and citizen boards will benefit by this important reference when considering development proposals and in setting priorities for community improvements. The goals and objectives are the foundation for developing planning recommendations for preferred growth areas, and form the basic ideology to support an action plan that will help the public officials implement public improvement projects and establish regulations. Regulations and other implementation methods are discussed in the last section of this report.

The governing body shall be guided by and give consideration to the general policy expressed in this document in adoption of regulations affecting county residents and resources. The goals and objectives established here are an integral part of the “master plan” (growth policy) that is used to develop land use regulations. The goals and objectives have been categorized into the following primary subjects:

- Economy
 - Residential Development
 - Infrastructure
 - Cultural and Natural Environment
- Note: New objectives are shown in italics under each goal.

Goal #1 - Economy

Facilitate the expansion and development of a multi-faceted economy.

Objectives

- Emphasize retention and expansion of current business enterprises.
- Direct business recruitment activities towards business enterprises whose resource needs are consistent with those available in Musselshell County.
- Encourage the development of Musselshell County mineral resources.
- Insure that all resource development is in compliance with existing, and subsequent, environmental policy regulations.
- Promote the existing Agricultural sector and other appropriate, economically viable, renewable resources.
- Seek business opportunities that capitalize on national cultural and demographic trends.
- *Work to improve the economy by encouraging growth in agriculture and agricultural support services and commodities.*
- *Provide for development of municipal water sources and systems.*
- *Support population growth to provide for an economic expansion base.*
- *Facilitate the expansion of existing industrial uses and development of new industries in areas suitable for development.*
- *Promote the use of innovative financing methods for new and existing business enterprise.*
- *Work with downtown business groups to identify a preferred plan for improvements in the Roundup business district. Put vacant buildings to use.*
- *Promote community beautification and clean-up projects and encourage civic support of aesthetic improvements in the community.*
- *Support continual information/communication technology updates.*

Goal #2 - Residential Development

Maintain the best possible residential environment within Musselshell County.

Objectives

- Pursue a course of housing development, through private sector participation; public sector involvement, and public/private partnerships.
- Encourage housing development by extending utilities and public infrastructure to undeveloped, platted land in the City of Roundup.

- Evaluate the need for additional special purpose housing. (e.g., Elderly, Low-income, Disabled, Group, etc.)
- Protect the viability of existing city neighborhoods by encouraging removal of dilapidated, unused structures, clean up of property, and restriction of business activities to areas designated for such use.
- Insure adequate implementation and enforcement of existing subdivision regulations in the County.
- Protect the urban rural interface by enhancing fuel source reduction and noxious weed control in the County.
- Seek a means of identifying, rehabilitating and protecting buildings of historical and cultural significance.
- Promote the use of programs and access available public/private funding for affordable housing and related infrastructure.
- *Promote adequate housing for low income persons and senior citizens in Musselshell County. Work to provide better opportunities for choice in housing type and location.*
- *Identify practical areas for annexation and new housing development near Roundup.*
- *Consider the need for land use regulations adjacent to the incorporated area of Roundup and for other developing portions of Musselshell County such as the Bull Mountain Area.*

Goal #3 - Infrastructure

Utilize “Best Practices” approach to the design, construction, and management of infrastructure components to benefit the citizens of the County.

Objectives

- Protect investment in publicly owned buildings by instituting program of scheduled, preventive maintenance to maximize usable life of structures.
- Develop appropriate, coordinated, cooperative program of disaster and emergency response, including Law Enforcement, Fire Protection and Ambulance services.
- Support efforts to secure reliable domestic water sources for Melstone, Musselshell, Roundup, rural subdivisions and other rural residents.
- Seek long-term solution to water quality issues in the City of Roundup.
- Promote source recycling of solid waste to reduce dependence upon county solid waste disposal services.
- Upgrade County roads as traffic counts and resources allow.
- Utilize Capital Improvements Planning as basis for public input regarding County and City infrastructure improvements.
- Provide overall financial planning by the County and communities so that all entities can work together to accomplish common projects with available monies.
- *Work to provide better recreational opportunities as an integral part of community improvements.*
- *Consider pedestrian/bicycle needs in the planning and development of new roads.*
- *Maintenance of existing street system should remain a high priority. As such, a priority road maintenance list should be developed to link level of need to available*

road maintenance resources. Items identified in the Capital Improvements Program should be evaluated on a regular basis for the County, City of Roundup and Town of Melstone.

- *Encourage necessary improvements to state transportation routes as needed for updates and maintenance.*
- *Require dedication of roadway rights-of-way in the planning and platting process. Dedications should be in accordance with the appropriate functional classification, design, standards and policy.*
- *Ensure that roads in new developments efficiently connect to the existing road network.*
- *Encourage new development that permits the logical and efficient extension of all public utilities including sewer, water, natural gas, electricity, and telecommunication services.*
- *Continue to work toward improvements to local fire protection and emergency medical facilities. Identify funding opportunities for facilities such as the Dean Creek Fire Hall.*
- *Encourage continued improvements and updates to education and public facilities.*

Goal #4 - Cultural and Natural Environment

Promote an appropriate balance between the social/cultural needs of county citizenry and the natural resources those needs depend upon.

Objectives

- *Encourage displays of cultural expression and cultural heritage.*
- *Investigate avenues to protect open space and access to public natural resources.*
- *Establish, improve and maintain recreational opportunities for county citizens.*
- *Protect open space, wildlife habitat areas, and public access to public/multiple use lands.*
- *Encourage the protection of agriculture and soil conservation, and continuation of noxious weed control.*
- *Maintain and preserve the quality and quantity of surface and ground water for both consumptive and non-consumptive use.*
- *Limit and discourage the development of lands having severe physical limitations including slope, soils, and flood plains.*

Goal #5 – Strongly Encourage and Support a Cooperative Effort Amongst All Entities In Order To Better Achieve Common Goals.

Musselshell County Development Issues

Residential Development

Census data for population and housing in Musselshell County indicates that there has been a slight increase from 1990 to 2000 due to changes in both the rural and urban areas of the county. The population of Melstone was the only sector showing a population loss. According to census estimates, the recent county wide upward trend is expected to continue

at a slower rate for the next 20 years. The population is projected to be less than 4,900 people for the county in the year 2030 which is about 350 persons over the level recorded for the 2000 census. Roundup should account for about half of the increase and there will also be additional demand due to replacement of deteriorated housing that realistically will not be suitable for rent or sale. Consequently, there will most likely be a demand for additions to the housing supply in the city as well as in the immediate vicinity of Roundup. Housing market improvements through renovation projects and infill in the existing platted areas should represent a significant part of the overall demand through the period. It is apparent that land use planning should focus on the need to provide areas for new residential development in addition to replacement of deteriorated structures that comprise a significant portion of the existing housing stock.

The rural population is distributed throughout the agricultural areas of Musselshell County with local concentrations on land around the corporate boundaries of Roundup. The preferred areas for future growth will be in the immediate vicinity of Roundup, and to a lesser degree in the Bull Mountain area to accommodate additional housing demand associated with operation of the mine. With a net 6.4% increase in total population in the county anticipated over the 30 year period after the 2000 census, demand for new residential subdivisions will be moderate. As indicated by data showing an increase in the proportion of population over 65, the need for senior housing will be higher, and will most likely involve new construction projects that target the low income elderly sector of the population. Although annexation policies in Roundup will affect the urban versus rural distribution, it appears that well over half of the demand for housing improvements will occur in the urban area of the county near Roundup.

The Roundup urban area should begin to level off before a period of very slow growth considering the census prediction for the county over the next few decades. Trends also show an increase in demand for urban oriented types of housing (multi-family) indicated by changes in population composition, and by restrictions in the housing market making home ownership less attainable for the aging and low income sectors of the population. Expansion of the urban area housing supply should include provisions for adding middle income, single family, and senior citizen housing, as well as room for expanding the family rental housing supply. There has been increasing interest in the need for assisted living facilities to provide housing for the elderly in both Roundup and Melstone.

Depending on several factors including land capability and suitability for connection to municipal services, some of the demand for replacement housing will be met by development in the peripheral area of Roundup. It is likely that a substantial part of the growth on the fringe of the Roundup will be annexed to help absorb public service costs. Limitations for future residential development due to topography, surface water, and land use or ownership are among the factors that must be considered prior to approval of final plans in preferred development areas.

Any growth in response to unforeseen economic factors or special development proposals may result in proposals for new residential subdivisions outside of the preferred areas and could require a review and update to the plan recommendations shown in the Land Use Plan

in Part Four. It is the intent of the Musselshell County Growth Policy that growth in the areas near the existing communities be directed to locations efficiently served by public services in compliance with the requirements of growth policy.

Subdivision proposals must be closely scrutinized for impacts on existing uses and public services that would be required. It is the intent of the plan to encourage any new development proposed through the subdivision process to be located on land in the preferred development areas as discussed in the Land Use Plan section. Although it is not the intent of the plan to prohibit all development in other areas (through regulatory measures), it is preferable that the existing land use in open rural areas be continued, particularly where environmental conditions are unfavorable for development or a viable agricultural operation will be negatively affected by a change in use.

According to information indicating recent trends, there is a county wide need for more senior citizen housing and better quality rental housing. The apparent need for affordable senior housing is supported by census population data showing growth in the percentage of upper age groups and senior citizens throughout Musselshell County, and lower than average per capita personal income. This trend in population composition indicates the need to increase the multiple-family housing share of the market by encouraging the use of housing assistance programs, including Board of Housing loan programs with low income assistance incentives. Programs for low and middle income housing should be promoted by local planning officials, and land use regulations should ensure that adequate area is available for multiple-family, mobile home, and modular housing. Habitat for Humanity housing may be a workable method of supplementing production of high-quality housing for fixed and low income households.

The need for additional housing in Roundup and Melstone should be met either within the city limits or in adjacent areas suitable for expansion. There is a need for new replacement housing within the incorporated area, as well as on land in the perimeter areas. Preferred areas for housing development will be tied to service limitations of existing or planned sewer and water systems, and the recommendations of local authorities. Also, housing needs studies and plans developed over the coming years will have an impact on how the housing demand is met for the city and urban areas, including recommendations for rehabilitation in blighted areas and use of housing assistance programs to address the needs.

The Local Economy

The commercial activities in Musselshell County in recent history have been relatively static due in part to the influence of larger retail outlets in Billings on the local buyers. Consequently, the need for additional commercial services and land in the planning area is dictated in part by the ability of new enterprises to compete with the established neighboring business communities. The local population will continue to depend on improvements and expansion of the local business environment, primarily in Roundup, to maintain a solid core of local retail services in the area. This is supported by one of the objectives of this plan regarding the economy to “Emphasize retention and expansion of current business enterprises.”

According to the goals and objectives of the plan, which are generally in support of economic development in the Roundup area, retail business improvements are a very high priority and there is a pressing need to improve vacant properties downtown. The emphasis for improving the business opportunities should be placed on support for attracting new business through the preservation and enhancement of the existing business district in the city. Considerations for new commercial development in the area include impacts on agricultural land, sewer and water services, and highway access. These factors will weigh heavily in the ultimate determination of development areas most suitable for new commercial use.

Industry

The Goals, Objectives and Policies indicate that the future vision for Musselshell County should include allowances for light industrial development as well as improvement of retail trade opportunities. Production of coal at the Signal Peak mine is expected to continue for at least the next 15 years providing added stability for the county in addition to the agricultural base. Because the agricultural service industry represents a significant share of county income, there is a need to designate adequate land for a continuation of local services for these enterprises. Preference should be given to preserving the existing operations with good access and that do not produce negative long term impacts. New or expanded industrial uses are envisioned to be resource and transportation oriented uses with required support facilities. Any new industrial enterprise should be ideally sited for connection to existing public services and future public utility extensions.

Infrastructure Needs

The streets and sewer and water systems are affected by expansion occurring within the service area of each system, and the impacts of development proposals on these systems must be considered before development plans are approved. Expansion of the existing water system is an issue in the Roundup and Melstone areas because of water quality and water supply concerns, and the roads throughout the county have issues that need to be addressed. Specific information and recommendations for improvements to the streets and sewer and water systems are discussed in the Local Services and Implementation sections of this report and in the CIP for Musselshell County, Roundup and Melstone in Appendix H, Appendix I and Appendix J respectively.

Since community sewer and water systems in Roundup and Melstone are locally managed and maintained, the primary concern of the County regarding providing public services is to improve the process of addressing needs relating to the road and bridge system. The County's intent is to maintain a high level of service for the population anticipated during the planning period. The road system in Musselshell County, as in all Montana counties, is in constant need of maintenance to control the effects of winter weather and poor storm water drainage. Most roads within the county are gravel and there are also some paved sections on arterial routes that fall under the jurisdiction of the county road department. Both paved and gravel roads require constant attention and many are in need of repair. Working within the limitations of the county budget, it is difficult, if not impossible to address all of these needs on an annual basis. The development and continual update of a county road and bridge capital improvements program is the most effective method of prioritizing these

needs and anticipating funding levels that must be provided to maintain and upgrade the system. The use of Rural Improvement Districts may also be an option for funding localized road improvements projects.

Musselshell County is using a 911 addressing system that includes GIS mapping showing the current road network. This information is used in the production of maps, and could also be useful for the county wide Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for roads and bridges. The creation of a data base containing information on the conditions of each component of the road and bridge network could be used to prioritize improvements in a CIP for the rural area. A similar process could be used for streets and storm drain facilities in Roundup and Melstone. In addition to working toward identifying methods of increasing revenues and reducing public spending, the annual update of the CIP should be a primary goal of the county and municipal administrations. Because of the costs associated with public facility projects, it is likely that they will be undertaken in phases, and grant monies will be required to get some of the projects completed. In an effort to minimize additional impacts on the budgets of the towns and the county, and in order to ensure a reasonable level of service to residents, all future subdivisions adjoining municipal areas, should be required to meet street surfacing and drainage standards adopted by the appropriate city or town jurisdiction. All other subdivisions in rural areas must meet the road standards adopted by the county. Public service needs and infrastructure planning (CIP) are addressed in more detail below.

Community Facilities

Community services providing fire protection, law enforcement, health care, public administration and schools should be considered in the development of the land use plan since obvious shortages or inadequacies in existing facilities could result in the need for additional public land for future expansion. Typically, we must depend on detailed facility plans developed by the affected public entity (through study committees) to identify facility needs.

Plans for future improvements to the public facilities should be undertaken to identify needs and potential budgeting shortfalls. Capital improvements for public buildings and other community facilities should be scheduled and budgeted within a priority system addressing all capital needs anticipated within the planning period. A detailed Capital Improvements Program (CIP) should include priorities for funding and improving these facilities. For further discussion of community facility needs, refer to the Local Services section of this report and the CIP for Musselshell County, Roundup and Melstone in Appendix H, Appendix I and Appendix J respectively.

Summary of Issues

The primary means of obtaining public input to help identify the local issues and concerns for use in preparation of the growth plan was through needs assessment surveys addressing a variety of topics pertinent to community needs, and by reference to concerns identified by local government officials..

Part of the process involved soliciting public agency opinions and local resident input at public meetings to allow for identification of needs for individual areas of Musselshell County.

A summary of issues is shown as follows:

- Musselshell County Rural Area
 - o Agriculture, resource development industry, retail trade, and cultural facilities, are the highest priorities for economic development.
 - o Opportunities exist for increased productivity in natural resource recovery and should be investigated and supported as a means of upgrading the economy.
 - o Fairgrounds facilities improvements are a priority for the County.
 - o Development should be closely scrutinized by county authorities before approval. Growth is encouraged in the vicinity of Roundup and the Bull Mountain area subject to public service limitations and environmental constraints.
 - o The transportation system in the county includes excellent connectivity through U.S. Highway 12, and U.S. Highway 87. Opportunities for increased use of these facilities to support commercial and industrial enterprise should be enhanced.
 - o County road maintenance and improvements should remain one of the top priorities for county officials.
 - o Musselshell County Road Department is in need of new shop facilities that should be addressed within the 20 year planning period.
 - o The courthouse has many deficiencies that should be addressed through renovation or replacement of the building.
 - o Law enforcement improvements and a new justice center are needed to meet the needs of the County.
 - o Protecting natural resources is very important to county residents.
 - o School facilities planning.

Ideas more pertinent to local issues in the incorporated communities of Roundup and Melstone center on the need for public services. The following summary covers some of the major concerns for the communities of Musselshell County:

- Roundup
 - o Identify suitable new development areas near the community.
 - o Renovation or demolition of vacant or deteriorated buildings is needed to improve the image of the community.
 - o Housing replacement and infill in existing platted areas will be a significant part of expansion of the housing stock in the foreseeable future. Housing issues and needs should be addressed through a cooperative effort of local agencies using available funding sources whenever possible.
 - o Priorities for community public improvements are: Improvements to the water system, business area beautification, improving streets and pedestrian facilities.

- o The community should work to complete improvements according to adopted plans for renewal and expansion of community services.
 - o Assisted living facilities were identified in the Roundup Needs Assessment as a top priority for health services in the community.
 - o Middle income housing, low income housing, and single family housing were listed as the highest priorities for housing needs in the Roundup Needs Assessment.
 - o Improvements are needed for community playgrounds and parks.
 - o The city should sponsor a community beautification/cleanup campaign.
 - o School facilities planning.
- Melstone
 - o Valuable surrounding agricultural land should be protected.
 - o Rehabilitation of single family housing is the top housing need. Rehabilitation programs are needed for existing housing upgrades. Assisted living facilities are needed to help address senior housing needs.
 - o Priorities for community public improvements are: Improvements to the sewer and water systems, improving streets and pedestrian facilities.
 - o Water and sewer system infrastructure improvements are a priority for the Town.
 - o School facilities planning.

governments, it is imperative that there is communication between all levels of government and that the local planning process is commensurate with the general provisions of State or Federal regulations.

Other implementation tools include the use of special assessment districts, use of State and Federal programs and similar strategies which provide funding sources to construct facilities that will promote the goals and objectives established in the Plan.

Private sector incentives can also be an important means of implementing the Plan. Many aspects of public action and local government decisions automatically encourage and provide incentives for the private sector. In some cases, it is appropriate to give special consideration to private developments which provide public benefits. At a minimum, the selection of implementation techniques should always consider the effect on the private sector's inclination to build and improve the community.

Regulatory Methods

Several tools are available for use in applying the adopted goals and objectives of the Growth Policy to shape the future of Musselshell County. The background conditions relating to population, land use, economics, public services and systems, and the natural environment were used in conjunction with policy statements to produce a plan for the entire County, including the City of Roundup and the Town of Melstone. Public input through needs surveys and public meetings was also part of the process. The general idea of what the local people advocate to preserve and enhance their community is therefore apparent; however, because the Growth Policy is a nonbinding document, we must look for a way of providing the most efficient and practical methods to provide regulatory guidance. Regulations must be drafted to carry out the direction of the Plan by articulating specific requirements that govern the use of the land.

Traditional enforcement tools used in Montana include subdivision regulations, zoning regulations or development regulations, floodplain regulations, and conservation easements. Building codes are also used to help improve the living environment consistent with adopted policies. Another type of enforcement tool, though less commonly used, is performance zoning based on a point system. For planning in municipal areas and the immediate vicinity, establishing annexation policies with clear and understandable procedures can be an effective tool for review and approval of new development that is consistent with the community goal of providing efficient public services. Annexation policies and providing for connection to public sewer and water systems are important issues for growth in the Roundup area.

Because of the rural character of Musselshell County and the widespread influence of agricultural and mineral resources, population growth will most likely be limited primarily to areas in or adjacent to Roundup and south of Roundup toward Billings near the main transportation system routes. As the population base increases and more development occurs, there will most likely be an increasing interest in developing additional regulatory measures. The expression of a preferred pattern for future development through the goals and objectives and community meetings indicates that updating the existing subdivision

regulations is one logical and workable approach to regulating land use in a manner consistent with the direction given in the Growth Policy. Depending on the attitude of the local population, it is possible that development pressure in response to any proposed energy resource extraction or processing projects would necessitate future consideration of other methods of land use control such as county wide development regulations. This method of regulation and its relationship to the Growth Policy is summarized later in this section of the report.

Musselshell County currently uses the 2009 version of the Musselshell County subdivision regulations to review subdivision proposals and the City of Roundup regulations are also current since the last legislative session. The regulations were updated to reflect legislative changes after the 2009 legislative session, however additional changes will most likely be needed every two years to tailor the document to state statute. Subdivision design standards should be reviewed and revised as needed to reflect the official policy of Musselshell County and the City of Roundup regarding road design and maintenance as well as drainage improvements and other site design requirements. Adopted design standards should be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Growth Policy.

All subdivision development proposals in the County and incorporated areas must be reviewed according to the procedures and standards established in the updated regulations. The application of carefully crafted development design standards and other subdivision requirements is an effective method of minimizing negative impacts and unidentified costs that can result from new subdivision activity.

Building codes are used in Musselshell County, Roundup and Melstone to promote health, safety, and energy conservation in new buildings and for renovation of existing structures. Building codes in the rural area of Musselshell County are administered by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Building Codes Bureau providing a method of controlling the quality and safety of new construction in the area. The State Building Codes Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry, through the Permit and Inspection Program, reviews all new public, commercial and industrial buildings and also regulates residential construction for buildings with five or more units. There is presently no building code review of residential buildings containing one to four units within the county rural area.

County Development Regulations

The adoption of development regulations may be the most logical approach to establishing an enforcement mechanism to support a reliable and functional planning process in the rural area of Musselshell County. Although development regulations are not currently in place for the rural part of the county, consideration of this method may be appropriate in the future depending on the perception of existing needs and the nature of future development trends. Any new regulations should conform to the intent of the Growth Policy (which may need to be updated to address new growth scenarios) and may include district descriptions and locations as well as character or quality requirements. A map of planning districts would then become a crucial part of the ordinance and would be closely tied to the land use plan map and the goals and objectives of the Growth Policy. The district map and regulations should be compiled so that they reflect the policies adopted in the most recent version of

the official Plan for the jurisdictional area of the Planning Board. Musselshell County is highly dependent on agriculture and could incorporate measures in development regulations to help protect and preserve this resource from adverse impacts of higher intensity uses.

Development Regulations can be adopted pursuant to Sections 76-2-201 through 76-2-228, MCA (The County Zoning Enabling Act); and Sections 76-1-101 through 76-6-606, MCA (The Local Planning Enabling Act). The basic structure of the development regulation process is similar to zoning in that standards are set to regulate density, minimize hazards and preserve areas unsuitable for development. The following discussion is an excerpt from the Handbook on Local Land Use Regulation indicating the general intent of development regulations.

Development permit regulations usually focus primarily on the character or quality of new development, with less emphasis on regulating the location of development. Development permit regulations often eliminate use districts and set out requirements that apply to new development throughout the jurisdiction. A new use may be issued a permit to locate in most locations, provided it meets the standards and requirements. While the emphasis of development permit regulations typically is on the character and quality of development, the regulations can be drafted to regulate location of new uses, and to apply different requirements in different areas within a county.

Development regulations follow the basic premise that development should be allowed based on the consideration of certain performance requirements regarding its relationship to land capability, access, and impact on agricultural land. In addition, the permit system could be tied to a district map and associated descriptions for areas within the county.

Zoning Ordinance

A zoning ordinance is currently in effect for the City of Roundup. Designation of residential, commercial and industrial zones in the city creates specific boundaries compatible with the recommendations of the growth policy and allows for the enactment of rules and standards to be applied in each zone. The zoning map is a crucial part of the ordinance and should be closely tied to any currently adopted land use plan as well as the goals and objectives found in the Growth Policy.

The basic structure of the zoning ordinance is centered on a list of permitted and conditional uses developed by the jurisdiction. This is the basic format that is followed for the existing City of Roundup Zoning Ordinance. In Montana, municipalities are authorized to enact zoning regulations under the Municipal Zoning Enabling Act. State statute links the growth policy to zoning regulations by requiring that the local government have an adopted growth policy in place before zoning can be enacted. A 2002 Attorney General's Opinion held that zoning regulations may not be adopted or substantively revised unless a growth policy has been adopted. Subsequent to that decision, the 2003 legislature extended the time period for adopting a compliant growth policy to October, 2006. Therefore the existing comprehensive plan and zoning regulations remained in effect until that time. Since the

zoning regulations must comply with the adopted plan, they must be updated, or reviewed for compatibility following adoption of the new growth policy.

The City of Roundup has a Zoning Ordinance that was originally adopted in 1979 and has been amended several times since then. It was fully reviewed and amended in 2004. The area within the city limits is regulated according to requirements contained in the document for seven districts:

R-1	Residential Single-Family
R-2	Residential General
HB	Highway Business District
CBD	Central Business District
LI	Light Industrial
HI	Heavy Industrial
FP	Flood Plain

Note: A copy of the City of Roundup Zoning Map is included in the Appendix for reference. The map is not part of the growth policy, but is shown only as a record of the area currently covered by zoning regulations.

The goals and objectives are intended to be general in nature, and are structured to permit flexibility in developing new zoning regulations or making revisions without totally changing the existing documents. However, since zoning must be based on a compliant growth policy, the existing ordinance should be reviewed and changed as needed following adoption of the growth policy.

Subdivision Regulations

As stated above, Musselshell County is using the standards included in the 2009 version of the Musselshell County subdivision regulations to review development proposals. The Musselshell County Planning Board reviews all subdivision applications and makes recommendations to the Musselshell County Commission for approval, conditional approval, or denial. Although Musselshell County has not experienced an increase in subdivision activity in recent years, this situation may change if interest in development increases in the future. The subdivision of land should reflect the intent of planned growth as orchestrated in the policy plan. In fact, HB 543 of the 2001 Legislature requires that local subdivision regulations be in accordance with the Growth Policy when a Growth Policy has been adopted. Planning legislation enacted by the 2003 legislature removed the time requirement that subdivision regulations be in compliance with the Growth Policy goals and objectives within one year of adoption of the Growth Policy. This did not change provisions in the existing law requiring that: “subdivision regulations be made in accordance with a growth policy, if a growth policy has been approved (76-1-606 MCA).” Revisions to the Subdivision and Platting Act in 2005 made significant changes to requirements for the application process, submittal requirements, water and sanitation information, and public hearings time line. New model subdivision regulations were published in 2006 to provide a guideline for preparation of local regulations in compliance with recent legislative revisions. Additional changes were made to the subdivision laws in both the 2007 and 2009 sessions.

Subdivision regulations serve a vital role in the planning process and should be tailored to fit the community by drafting specific submittal requirements and design standards to reflect current policies of the jurisdiction. As a general rule, It is recommended that each governing body review the local regulations and incorporate any desired changes to submittal and review procedures and especially to include revisions to the design and improvement standards so that they are in accordance with the Growth Policy and accurately depict the needs of the governing jurisdiction. It is possible, for instance, that road standards should be different or that requirements for fire protection should be changed. Since Roundup and Musselshell County have kept their documents current regarding on-going legislative changes, it is possible that changes to the document would not be required.

In order to help preserve agricultural resources, the subdivision regulations could also incorporate a “Right to Farm and Ranch” agreement as a part of the submittal requirements for subdivisions in agricultural areas. Musselshell County has adopted such a policy to support and protect agricultural resources and enterprise in the county.

The use of subdivision regulations to direct development is an integral part of obtaining the goals and objectives in the Growth Policy as illustrated in the following discussion prepared by the State Department of Commerce:

Subdivision regulations regulate the process of platting land into lots and providing public facilities (e.g., roads, water, sewer, storm drainage) to the lots. The platting and creation of lots is not only the first phase in development, the action sets the permanent land use pattern for the community. Therefore, proper public review of proposed land division is vital to: (1) prevent or minimize impacts on public health and safety and the natural environment, (2) ensure desirable future land use patterns, and (3) allow cost-effective provision of public services, thereby reducing tax expenditures.

In Montana, local government subdivision regulations must evaluate a proposed subdivision’s impact on a number of considerations such as the natural environment, wildlife, public health and safety, and local services. The Montana Subdivision and Platting Act (MSPA) (76-3-101 et seq., MCA) requires all counties and municipalities to adopt and enforce subdivision regulations, and to review and decide on development proposals that would divide land into parcels of less than 160 acres, construct one or more condominiums, or provide multiple spaces for mobile homes or recreational camping vehicles.

A subdivision must be properly surveyed, comply with local design standards, and provide legal and physical access and utility easements. Also, to approve a subdivision, local officials must issue written findings of fact that consider the effect the development would have on agriculture, the natural environment, wildlife and wildlife habitat, local services, and the public health and safety.

The Montana Sanitation in Subdivisions Act (MSIS) (76-4-101 et seq., MCA) was enacted to ensure proper sewage and solid waste disposal, water supply, and drainage in subdivisions. Under the MSIS, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must approve the sanitation facilities proposed for any subdivision containing lots less than 20 acres in size. Thus, a subdivision with lots of less than 20 acres must generally receive two separate approvals – local approval under the MSPA, and state approval of sanitation facilities under the MSIS. Also, all subdivisions served by a public sewer or water system must be reviewed and approved by DEQ.

Subdivision Regulations Evasion Criteria

Local jurisdictions are required by 2005 changes in the Subdivision and Platting Act to develop evasion criteria for their subdivision regulations. This could be completed or revised as part of the review and update following adoption of the Growth Policy by the governing body. Administration of the subdivision regulations is an important part of the planning process, and because the current law allows for certain exemptions, it is necessary to have a list of evasion criteria to ensure that parcels are not created illegally. The governing body must determine whether a claimed use of an exemption meets the statutory requirements of that exemption, and whether the exemption is being invoked for the "Purpose of Evading" the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act (MSPA).

The evasion criteria in the current subdivision regulations should be reviewed for content and revisions should be included in the amended document.

Floodplain Regulations

Floodplain regulations are enforced through the county floodplain administrator in Musselshell County. Both the City of Roundup and Musselshell County participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. Flood plain maps are available at the RC&D office in Roundup City Hall.

The Musselshell County planning area is affected by flood incidents due to occasional high volume rain events as well as rapid snow melt in the drainage areas of the county's major streams. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps are available for areas based on flood insurance studies for drainage conditions along the major streams in the county. The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Musselshell County are based on Flood Insurance Studies.

The history of flooding in the county has shown that limitations exist in some areas that must be addressed before future development plans can be implemented. The flood affected areas include riparian zones adjacent to the river and flood prone zones near the main streams in the county. Maps showing flood affected areas are currently available at the RC & D office at city hall and also on line at the NRIS web site and the FEMA web site. These maps should be referenced when any development is proposed in the vicinity of streams and rivers.

The floodplain of the major streams, as well as its tributary streams, can present a serious obstacle to many types of development, and would necessarily be considered a constraint to

the expansion of residential and commercial uses where flooding conditions exist. Future land use planning in the floodplain area should follow the requirements of the Floodplain Ordinance by controlling the location of structures in the floodplain and working to maintain enforceable regulations that deal effectively with the specific problems throughout the county.

Subdivision design standards contained in the subdivision regulations also address procedures and requirements for floodplain development review.

Conservation Easements

An effective method of preserving land in environmentally sensitive areas and promoting appropriate land use consistent with the Growth Policy is through the establishment of conservation easements.

A conservation easement (76-6-101 et seq., MCA) is a voluntary legal agreement a landowner enters into to restrict the type and amount of development that may occur on his property. Such an easement ensures that the resource values of the land will be protected according to the terms of the contract. Easements may be granted either in perpetuity or for a minimum of 15 years with an option to renew. The use of conservation easements can be an important part of protecting land from urban-oriented development.

A landowner may grant an easement to a public agency or to a qualified private tax-exempt organization. If the conservation easement meets federal requirements, property owners may be entitled to reductions in income and estate taxes. Each easement is different, tailored to the specific needs of the landowner while ensuring that conservation objectives are met. Conservation easements may prevent subdivision development; construction of new residential, commercial and industrial structures; activities resulting in soil erosion or water pollution; mining; and degradation of fish and wildlife habitat. Local governments can work with tax-exempt organizations and property owners to promote and facilitate preservation of productive agricultural lands or other lands that contribute to the values and assets of the community. Under Montana law, the local planning authority is required to review conservation easements (76-6-206, MCA).

In Musselshell County there are two conservation easement holders on record. The Montana Land Reliance manages easements totaling 14,762 acres and the Nature Conservancy manages 1,807 acres. They are shown on the Musselshell County Land Use and Public Ownership Map (Figure 7).

Capital Improvements Plan

The goals, objectives and policy statements contained in this document make specific reference to the need for improvement and expansion of the public infrastructure systems of Musselshell County, the City of Roundup, and the Town of Melstone to adequately serve the population during the planning period. These infrastructure improvements can be accomplished in an orderly and predictable manner by periodic review and update of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for each jurisdiction.

All municipalities and counties are faced with the need for capital improvements – repair or replacement of existing physical facilities, land acquisition and construction of new facilities such as community centers, parks and playgrounds, fire stations, bridges, roads, and sewage treatment plants. Capital improvements planning is the preparation and updating of a proposed schedule of public works and related equipment to be built or purchased by a community during the foreseeable future. Capital improvements planning cannot guarantee that all of the proposed projects will be undertaken, but it can go a long way toward guaranteeing the most effective use of limited resources.

A Capital Improvements Plan provides a vital link between a community's growth policy and the implementation of that plan. The CIP works in conjunction with the jurisdiction's annual operating budget and its long-range fiscal policy and is one of the most effective management tools available to the county. By preparing and following a CIP, local officials are in a better position to make objective and informed decisions as to how their community will provide for its citizens. Capital improvements planning can also be the basis for improving intergovernmental and regional relations, as a proposed project may involve several jurisdictions. These benefits, and others inherent in capital improvements planning, are not automatic but are dependent on the commitment of the community and the effectiveness of the local government administration.

The objective of the CIP is to match needed improvement projects with revenue and financing sources to ensure that public facilities will be repaired, expanded, or constructed as required by future growth, public health and safety, or other community needs. How, when, and where public facilities are provided greatly affects the pattern of future land development and the public cost of providing these facilities.

At a minimum, the CIP should contain:

1. A list of needed capital improvement projects for several or all of the public facilities managed by the local government;
2. Clear priorities for funding and constructing the improvement projects (the needs list is put in priority order);
3. Potential and recommended funding sources to pay for each project; and
4. A rough time schedule for each project.

The goals, objectives and policies of the Growth Policy have identified infrastructure improvements as important priorities for each local government entity in Musselshell County. Musselshell County, the City of Roundup, and the Town of Melstone have been actively involved in planning for infrastructure needs and have already adopted a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) covering their jurisdiction. The Musselshell County CIP was adopted in 2009, the City of Roundup completed a CIP Update in 2010, and the Town of Melstone CIP was completed in 2002. A copy of each capital improvements plan is included in the appendix. See Appendix H, Appendix I, and Appendix J.

The projects listed in the improvement schedules of the Capital Improvements Plan should be completed according to the priority schedules listed in each document using a combination of available public funding sources and local monies. Adjustments to the

schedules should be made annually based on current conditions affecting the priorities and identification of any new funding opportunities. The funding sources should include participation in the CTEP, CDBG, DNRC and TSEP programs as well as available low interest loans available through a variety of other sources. The County should also work closely with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) on improvements to the highway system to develop paving, drainage, signing, and vehicular access to local business along the routes.

Items currently included in the CIP for Musselshell County are shown in the following list:

- Airport.....New taxiways; GPS approach; Apron expansion; Pilot lounge.
- Ambulance.....Vehicle replacement.
- County Courthouse.....New courthouse building.
- Law Enforcement.....New Law Enforcement Center
- Road and Bridge Department.....Musselshell Shop improvements; New Roundup area shop.
- Fairgrounds.....Problem areas have been identified.
- Refuse Building.....New office with restroom.
- Fire Department
 - o Roundup Rural.....Vehicle replacement; Fire Station addition
 - o Bull Mountain.....Gravel parking lot; Vehicle replacement; Building addition.
 - o Dean Creek.....Gravel parking lot; Vehicle replacement; Building addition; 10,000 gallon water storage.
 - o Hawk Creek.....New restroom; Vehicle replacement.

Note: The CIP should be updated annually in conjunction with the budgetary process.

Specific county projects addressing many of the needs are included in the list of improvements in the 2009 Capital Improvements Plan. Although many infrastructure improvements have already been prioritized, a detailed evaluation of county road and bridge projects should also be completed to identify costs and possible funding sources. Improvement and maintenance of the roads is one of the county's major budget items and proper planning and use of available grant and loan sources would be a tremendous help in addressing the road system needs. The county could obtain financial assistance to aid in the process of completion of a CIP for the roads by applying for CDBG planning grant funding.

A sidewalk/trails improvements program schedule should also be part of capital improvements planning for the County. Funding can be obtained from the Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) for sidewalk and trail improvements. The funds are available for the sidewalk and urban trails program from the Montana Department of Transportation, and for the trail system through the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Items currently included in the CIP for the City of Roundup are shown in the following table:

Proposed Project Schedule

Year	Department	Capital Improvement	2010 Cost Estimate	Project Year Cost ¹	Potential Funding Sources
2010	Buildings	Handicap Accessible Ramp for City Hall	\$1,500	\$1,500	City
	Buildings	Air Conditioning for City Hall	\$5,000	\$5,000	City
	Fire	Expand Bay for New Fire Truck	\$46,000	\$46,000	Local Government Grant
	General	2nd Ave. Curb, Gutter, and Sidewalks	\$450,000	\$450,000	City, CTEP
	General	Pool Painting	\$3,000	\$3,000	City
	Parks	New Mowers	\$70,000	\$70,000	Coal Board
	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$25,000	City
	Storm	Phase 1 Improvements (10th Ave. Extension)	\$356,500	\$356,500	City, Coal Board
	Water	Water Meter Replacements	\$35,000	\$35,000	City
	Water	Water Rehabilitation	\$150,000	\$150,000	City
2011	General	Infrastructure Improvements for Housing	\$400,000	\$416,000	City
	General	Pool Cover	\$12,500	\$13,000	City
	Parks	Swingset	\$1,800	\$1,872	City
	Parks	Air Compressor	\$15,000	\$15,600	City
	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$26,000	City
	Wastewater	UV Disinfection	\$200,000	\$208,000	City
	Water	Water Meter Replacements	\$35,000	\$36,400	City
	Water	Water Rehabilitation	\$1,250,000	\$1,300,000	City, TSEP, CDBG, DNRC
2012	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$27,040	City
	Streets	Street Reconstruction Program	\$40,000	\$43,264	City
	Wastewater	Sewer Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$270,400	City
	Water	Water Meter Replacements	\$35,000	\$37,856	City

Year	Department	Capital Improvement	2010 Cost Estimate	Project Year Cost ¹	Potential Funding Sources
2013	Storm	Phase 2 Improvements (10th Ave. Extension)	\$107,000	\$120,360	City
	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$28,122	City
	Water	Water Meter Replacements	\$35,000	\$39,370	City
	Water	Water Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$281,216	City
	Water	Water Rehabilitation	\$1,250,000	\$1,406,080	City, TSEP, CDBG, DNRC
2014	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$29,246	City
	Streets	Street Reconstruction Program	\$40,000	\$46,794	City
	Wastewater	Sewer Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$292,465	City
	Water	Reservoir Cleaning	\$18,000	\$21,057	City
2015	Solid Waste	Dumpsters	\$45,000	\$54,749	City
	Solid Waste	Garbage Truck Replacement	\$95,000	\$115,582	City
	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$30,416	City
	Water	Water Rehabilitation	\$1,250,000	\$1,520,816	City, TSEP, CDBG, DNRC
2016	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$31,633	City
	Streets	Street Reconstruction Program	\$40,000	\$50,613	City
	Wastewater	Sewer Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$316,330	City
2017	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$32,898	City
	Water	Water Rehabilitation	\$1,250,000	\$1,644,915	City, TSEP, CDBG, DNRC
2018	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$34,214	City
	Streets	Street Reconstruction Program	\$40,000	\$54,743	City
	Wastewater	Sewer Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$342,142	City
	Water	Reservoir Cleaning	\$18,000	\$24,634	City
2019	Streets	Street Paving/Chip Seal	\$25,000	\$35,583	City
	Water	Water Rehabilitation	\$1,250,000	\$1,779,140	City, TSEP, CDBG, DNRC
¹ Project year costs are estimated using a conservative 4% annual cost increase.					

Items currently included in the CIP for the Town of Melstone are shown in the following list:

- Water System
 - New well, piping and meters
 - Second well and well house
 - Paint water tank
- Wastewater System
 - Facility plan
 - New lagoon
- Community Center
 - New windows and doors

The projects listed in the improvement schedules should be completed according to the priority schedule using a combination of available public funding sources and local monies. The funding sources include participation in the CTEP, CDBG, DNRC and TSEP programs, as well as available low interest loans available through a variety of other sources. The County and Towns should also work closely with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) on improvements to develop paving, drainage, sidewalks, and vehicular access to local business along the routes near the communities. Signing improvements should also be scheduled.

Implementation Strategy

As discussed in the previous sections, the Growth Policy is an advisory document only and essentially lays the foundation for adoption of implementation measures. Continued review and update of the subdivision regulations will be necessary throughout the planning period. This update will streamline the subdivision review process and help to implement the Growth Policy. Effective use of development regulations is another important implementation tool available to the County for administration of the principles contained in the Growth Policy. The Planning Board may want to investigate the need for development regulations following adoption of the new Growth Policy. The planning board should also support efforts to improve housing conditions in the city and county by promoting updates to housing plan and use of available funding mechanisms for housing projects. The City of Roundup has identified the need for improvements to the downtown area as one issue that is of paramount importance to the community. Methods of making these improvements and means of financing should be identified through development of a business improvements plan initiated by the community. The Capital Improvements Plans for Musselshell County, Roundup, and Melstone will also need to be updated periodically so that infrastructure priorities and projects are synchronized with the current needs of the community and the availability of new funding sources. Other implementation measures related to community improvements and tied to the goals and objectives of the Growth Policy are included in the implementation action plan.

Implementation Schedule

The following schedule provides guidance for the Planning Board and governing body to implement the objective identified for the Plan and to measure the progress and success of the Plan. The implementation schedule will be useful to the governing body during their annual budgeting process. Continued involvement by the citizens groups will also ensure that the plan is carried out.

Implementation Action Plan

ACTION ITEM	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	DESIRED COMPLETION DATE
1. Revise subdivision regulations to reflect legislative changes and support implementation of the Growth Policy	Planning Board	January 2012
2. Consider the need for county development regulations. If needed, develop a proposal for districts and map.	Planning Board/County Commission	July 2010
3. Prepare a CIP for county bridges and county roads	County Road Department/Planning Staff	2011
4. Update the overall CIP for county infrastructure.	Musselshell County/Planning Staff	2012
5. Update the overall CIP for Roundup infrastructure.	City of Roundup	2012
4. Update the overall CIP for Melstone infrastructure.	Town of Melstone	2012
5. Provide support for a local economic development plan update	City of Roundup / Planning Board	As Needed
6. Develop a recreation facilities improvements plan	Planning Board and County Planning Staff	2013
7. Review and update the zoning ordinance	City of Roundup / Planning Board	2011
8. Support and improve GIS capacity for analysis of County and City projects	County Commissioners / City of Roundup	Ongoing
9. Review & revise Growth Policy as required	Planning Board County Commissioners /City of Roundup / Town of Melstone	2015
10. Sponsor public information meetings on planning activities in Musselshell County (including Roundup and Melstone)	Planning Board	Semi-annual
11. Support local staffing to administer planning services	Musselshell County / City of Roundup	Ongoing
12. Develop a downtown beautification plan for sidewalks, streetscape, lighting, and parking, etc.	City of Roundup / Planning Board	2014

Planning Coordination

Development proposals in Musselshell County are reviewed by the Musselshell County Planning Board since it serves in the capacity of planning review for the rural area. Planning issues that could conceivably affect the provision of public services in each incorporated area are then brought to the attention of the appropriate administrative agency including Town officials as well as school district personnel. The opportunity for the Towns to comment on proposed subdivisions within one mile of their corporate boundaries is promulgated by

State statute in Section 76-3-601 of the Subdivision and Platting Act (since Musselshell County towns are classified as third class towns). It is anticipated that, following revision of the County subdivision regulations, submittal requirements for materials describing each subdivision proposal in Musselshell County within one mile of the Towns will be clarified to include a requirement for delivery of the appropriate number of copies to the affected Town at the beginning of the subdivision review process. Affected agencies will then be informed of the nature and extent of the proposal and the time line for comment. Public agencies for the County to receive a notification include the Floodplain Administrator, County Sanitarian, County Road Department, School Superintendent, Weed District Supervisor, and other interested public entities. The County also typically coordinates and cooperates with the Towns on other matters of common interest including the airports, floodplain planning, disaster and emergency services, fire protection and law enforcement.

Review of development proposals by both the Planning Board and the Towns for subdivisions within one mile of the Towns promotes a mutual awareness and cooperation in planning efforts of the Towns and County jurisdictions. By including distribution of subdivision proposal documents to affected Towns and State agencies for review and comment, Musselshell County is promoting a coordinated planning effort. Also, county and municipal area representatives on the Planning Board help to facilitate better local knowledge of planning issues and impacts that may be of special concern to the County Commission. Final decisions by the County Commission and City or Town Councils regarding subdivisions in Musselshell County will tie in with policies in the Growth Policy and will be made with due consideration of concerns and comments of both the Municipal and County officials.

Subdivision Review

The Subdivision and Platting Act requires that decisions regarding proposed subdivisions be made with respect to the criteria listed in 76-3-608 3(a). This section requires local governments to review a proposed subdivision's effect on "agriculture, agricultural water user facilities, local services, the natural environment, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and public health and safety." For the purpose of subdivision review in Musselshell County and the City of Roundup, these terms are defined as follows:

- **Agriculture:** Montana Code Annotated contains definitions for the words "agriculture" and "agricultural" as follows:
 - o 41-2-103, MCA. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:
 - o (1) "Agriculture" means: (a) all aspects of farming, including the cultivation and tillage of the soil; (b)(i) dairying; and (ii) the production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodities, including commodities defined as agricultural commodities in the federal Agricultural Marketing Act (12 U.S.C. 1141j(g)); (c) the raising of livestock, bees, fur-bearing animals, or poultry; and (d) any practices, including forestry or lumbering operations, performed by a farmer or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with farming operations, including preparation for market or delivery to storage, to market, or to carriers for transportation to market.

- o 81-8-701, MCA. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part the following definitions apply: (1) “Agricultural and food product” includes a horticultural, viticultural, dairy, livestock, poultry, bee, other farm or garden product, fish or fishery product, and other foods.
- Agricultural Water User Facilities: Those facilities which provide water for agricultural land as defined in 15-7-202, MCA, or which provide water for the production of agricultural products as defined in 15-1-101, MCA including, but not limited to, ditches, pipes, and headgates.
- Local Services: Any and all services or facilities that local government entities are authorized to provide.
- Natural Environment: The physical conditions which exist within a given area, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.
- Wildlife: Living things which are neither human nor domesticated.
- Wildlife Habitat: Place or type of site where wildlife naturally lives and grows.
- Public Health and Safety: A condition of optimal well-being, free from danger, risk, or injury for a community at large, or for all people, not merely for the welfare of a specific individual or a small class of persons.

The decision on whether to conditionally approve or deny a proposed subdivision will be based on an evaluation of the foregoing criteria with emphasis on the following considerations:

- Agriculture: Type of agricultural operation including type of crop, 5-year average yield, irrigation method, acreage used for crops and livestock, and number of animal units. The impact on adjacent farm operations including spraying, fencing, and access will also be considered. Prime farmland and land necessary to sustain the farming operation will also be considered.
- Agricultural Water User Facilities: Ditch easements, pipeline easements, headgates and maintenance access.
- Local Services: Sewer system, water system, roads, electrical supply, telephone, natural gas, health services, ambulance availability, fire protection availability, solid waste disposal, schools, law enforcement and parks and recreation.
- Natural Environment: Soil suitability and limitations, slope in disturbed areas, geologic formations, fault lines, proximity to surface water, storm water, floodplain, groundwater, plant varieties and communities, weed proliferation, air quality, noise levels, and historical features.
- Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat: Major species of fish and wildlife using the area, important wildlife areas including big game range, waterfowl nesting areas, habitat for rare and endangered species and wetlands.
- Public Health and Safety: Water quality, wastewater treatment, air quality, emergency services access, and fire, earthquake and flood hazards.

Review and Amendment

Review

This Growth Policy reflects an approximate 10-year horizon date. Such a time period represents a workable time frame which allows for the systematic implementation of desired land uses and permits the use of completed census data work prior to the data becoming obsolete. To provide for flexibility and responsiveness to change, the Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Planning Board's annual meeting.

Additionally, the Growth Policy shall be intensively reviewed every five years by the Planning Board to evaluate trends in population, the economy, and development patterns.

Amendments

The Growth Policy shall be amended when any review has identified necessary changes or when, in the course of events, changes are deemed to be in the public interest by the Planning Board, Musselshell County Commission, Roundup City Council, or Melstone Town Council.

A public hearing to consider a proposed amendment will be held by the Planning Board. The effect of the proposal will be reviewed in the context of the overall plan and current conditions. The proposed amendment, possibly modified by public comment, will be recommended to the Musselshell County Commissioners, Roundup City Council and Melstone Town Council for their approval.

Public Hearings Procedures

Public hearings on proposed subdivisions are conducted by the Musselshell City - County Planning Board for land in the jurisdictional area. The Planning Board conducts a public hearing for subdivision proposals in the county and incorporated areas. Hearings are structured according to the following procedures:

- Planning Board President opens the public hearing.
- Planner provides a summary of the subdivision application and staff report.
- Subdivision applicant is given an opportunity to make comments.
- Planning Board members are given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the subdivision applicant and planning staff.
- Members of the public have an opportunity to make comments. ¹
- Planning Board discussion takes place.
- If Planning Board members feel prepared to make a decision on the project, they vote to recommend project approval, conditional, approval, or denial.
- If Planning Board members feel they need more information or time to consider the project before voting, or if the subdivision applicant wishes to modify the project and bring a revised proposal back to the Planning Board, or if the public hearing has gone on more than two hours and there are still citizens who haven't had a chance to testify, the Planning Board may opt to extend the public hearing in accordance with the review time requirements outlined in state law.

- Once all public comments have been received within the allowable timeframe, and once the Planning Board has taken its vote, the Planning Board President closes the public hearing.

¹ Public comments may be made either verbally or in writing. Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Board by the close of the public hearing.

**Water/Wastewater • Transportation • Grant Administration • Development •
Surveying • Environmental Resources • Planning • Construction Management**

HELENA

PO Box 4817
2501 Belt View Drive
Helena, MT 59604
PHONE 406.449.8627
FAX 406.449.8631

BILLINGS

115 N. Broadway
Suite 500
Billings, MT 59101
PHONE 406.652.5000
FAX 406.248.1363

BOZEMAN

602 Ferguson
Suite 1
Bozeman, MT 59718
PHONE 406.587.0504
FAX 406.587.0541

