

## Appendix D:

# White Pine County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)



## **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies July 2020**



**SUBMITTED TO:**

United States Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration

**SUBMITTED FROM:**

White Pine County Board of County Commissioners  
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## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

White Pine County, Nevada is a large, sparsely populated, rural remote county, located on the eastern border of the state. It is located approximately 250 miles from Las Vegas, NV and Salt Lake City, UT and 320 miles from Reno, NV. Ely, the County seat is the largest population center in a 150-mile-radius. White Pine County's Great Basin terrain is typical of the basin and range topography with north south mountain ranges of 8,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation separated by long narrow valleys at 5,000 to 7,000 feet. The area enjoys beautiful mountain scenery and a cool dry high desert climate. The 2017 Census ACS reported White Pine counties population estimate at 9,858<sup>19</sup>.

Historically, White Pine County's economy has been based on mining and ranching. Gold and silver mining camps in the mid-1800's gave way to copper mining. The construction of the Nevada Northern railroad in 1906 made copper mining economically feasible. From the turn of the century to 1973, the County prospered. Mining provided jobs, much of the community's support services, infrastructure, and leadership for local government and social activities. By 1958, Kennecott Copper owned all the major copper holdings in the County. The Copper mine at Ruth was one of the largest open pit copper mines in the world and it generated 20 percent of the state's net proceeds of mining taxes, giving White Pine County political strength within the state. In 1978, Kennecott Copper Corporation closed the mine and cut production at the smelter.

By 1983, the smelter and the railroad were closed. The community lost 1,600 primary jobs, one-quarter of its population, 34 percent of its school enrollment, and 24 percent of local tax revenues. The efforts to revitalize the economy resulted in the development phase of the White Pine Power Project, as well as the state's maximum-security prison near Ely, creation of the County's Industrial Park, designation of the Great Basin National Park, and development of the Nevada Northern Historical Railroad Museum. The economy was improving by the late 1980's and in 1995 Magma Copper of Arizona purchased and reopened the copper mine at Ruth with a projected life of seventeen years. Housing was built to support the growing population. The ebb and flow of the mining industry has presented many challenges over the years.

White Pine County faces many of the same critical issues experienced throughout northern Nevada including growth, lack of affordable housing, lack of general contractor's, high construction costs and lack of available workforce. In addition, White Pine County is contending with the applications by Southern Nevada for all the unappropriated water in Spring Valley, a key basin for outdoor recreation, the National Park and the county's agricultural industry. Starting in 2005 the County worked under the supervision of the Nevada Department of Taxation to avoid insolvency and put the County government on sound financial footing. The County was released by Nevada Department of Taxation in July of 2009 and moved to probationary status for a period of five (5) years. The County continues to work to renovate the



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railroad and reinstate rail freight service and support the renewable energy development. It looks to develop industrial clusters related to the new hemp farm operation in the northern portion of the County and identify new clusters based on availability of rail freight service. It is expanding its capacity for special events, development of a destination vacation and increasing its ability to meet the needs for second and retirement homes. The County, City, School Board, and General Improvement Districts work to provide adequate water and sewer services, strengthen educational programs, develop the Regional Recreation Center and provide the staffing necessary to provide services to its residents and visitors. The County continues its efforts to keep its planning documents up to date.

A National Park Service study identified that 153,000 visitors to Great Basin National Park in 2018 spent \$8.8 million in local White Pine County communities, supported 121 jobs in the community and a financial impact of \$9.0 million dollars.<sup>2</sup>

White Pine County is a local government with a demonstrated commitment to economic development through industry diversification, job sustainability and community service growth. Striving to meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) "CEDS Requirement Checklist" and 13 C.F.R. §303.7 "Requirements for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies" the White Pine County Commissioners approved Resolution 2018-56 to update the current CEDS document in August of 2018.

## **2. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PLANNING**

In September 2018, after approval of resolution 2018-56, the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) requested that Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) regionalize the CEDS process and consider applying to Economic Development Administration (EDA) to become an Economic Development District (EDD). A meeting in October 2018 between NNRDA, USDA-Rural Development and the University of Nevada Reno worked to organize such a project. The decision was made for the University of Nevada Reno to take the overall lead, working with the Executive Director of NNRDA. It was determined that the White Pine County CEDS process would be led by USDA-Rural Development and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED).

### **2.1.1 STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION**

Several meetings were held to identify stakeholders for both the strategic committee as well as community meetings, surveys and interviews. A conscious effort to include members from the two Indian reservations as well as representation from each of the smaller communities of Baker, Ruth, McGill, Lund, and Cherry Creek.

Community sectors identified to participate in the planning process included:

- Local businesses

- Local government
- Industry
- Finance
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Professions (e.g., law, medicine, engineering, education etc.)
- Utilities
- Community Organization
- Workforce
- Community based committees
- Members of the Goshute and Ely Shoshone Tribes

### **2.1.2 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

The selection of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee took place during the community meeting in early February 2019. Committee selection ensured all regions of the county had fair representation, along with representation from the school district, local government, agriculture, businesses, community organizations, emergency services, utilities, and public health. Due to White Pine County's small population, some categories of the Committee are represented by only a single person.

Members of the Strategy Committee received the CEDS guidelines (administered by U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA)) along with an overview of the complete process.

### **2.1.3 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The Strategy Committee developed a set of goals establishing the framework for the CEDS.

#### **Goals:**

1. Foster a countywide awareness of strategic thinking and planning in order to secure federal, state, and private funding for priority economic development projects that benefit the entire County.
2. Develop and recommend short-term strategies for housing to overcome a major hurdle the County faces in workforce development. Housing is also necessary to attract needed business development as well as to increase the tax base which will create long-term sustainability.
3. Create a countywide environment that promotes bringing in new businesses and growing existing businesses. Although community residents enjoy a quiet rural community, it is important to foster an understanding that some business development will result in a thriving economic environment enabling increased basic services and countywide sustainable growth.



#### **2.1.4 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS – METHODOLOGY**

Current economic performance metrics were compiled from an array of sources, including the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the U.S. Census Bureau and others. This information collected and evaluated helped frame an understanding of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats influencing economic and community development across the entire County. Planning documents reviewed as part of the CEDS development:

- White Pine County Economic Development Strategies
- The Ely Times, Nevada Twentieth Century Mining (University of Nevada, Reno)
- White Pine County Website
- White Pine County Public Lands Use Document 2018

In addition to the above documents, White Pine County's CEDS process evaluated community surveys created by the Strategic Committee and GOED. Also, community conversation and one on one interviews took place to help understand the current economic environmental trends and social concerns allowing creation of a roadmap for future economic growth.

#### **2.1.5 PLAN ORGANIZATION**

The White Pine County CEDS development addresses each of the required areas presented in the CEDS guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

##### **Outlined detail in each section:**

Included in the analysis in sections three through eleven is socioeconomic and demographic data, information on natural resources, public and community services, infrastructure, and the current economic conditions of the County and its various population centers. Sections twelve through fourteen cover the priority economic development projects, goals and objectives, action plans as well as performance measures and implementation planning. Finally, a section documenting all external resources provided.

### **3. WHITE PINE COUNTY**

#### **3.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY**

White Pine County is a subdivision of the State of Nevada. It was originally within the boundaries of Lander County until 1869 when the Nevada legislature created White Pine County. It is located in the east central portion of the State and covers an area of approximately 8,900 square miles. Historically, White Pine County's economy was based on mining and ranching. The main minerals mined included gold and silver starting in the mid-1800's and in 1872 copper came onto the scene. The construction of the Nevada Northern railroad in 1906 made copper mining economically feasible. From the turn of the century through to 1973, the



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County prospered. Operated as self-contained company towns, Ely, Ruth and McGill housed the workforce for the copper mining industry. The companies provided jobs, revenue, much of the community's support services and infrastructure and leadership for local government and social activities. The Copper mine at Ruth was one of the largest open pit copper mines in the world and it generated 20 percent of the state's net proceeds of mines taxes, giving White Pine County political strength within the state. In 1978, Kennecott Copper Corporation closed the mine and cut production at the smelter.

By 1983, the smelter and the railroad were closed. The community lost 1,600 primary jobs, one-quarter of its population, 34 percent of its school enrollment and 24 percent of local tax revenues. The County rallied putting forth efforts to revitalize the economy. These efforts resulted in the development phase of the White Pine Power Project in Northern Steptoe Valley, siting the State's maximum-security prison in the County northwest of Ely, creation of the



County's Industrial Park, designation of the Great Basin National Park, and development of the Nevada Northern historical railroad museum and tourist train ride. White Pine County, hosting a population of 10,030<sup>3</sup> (according to the 2010 census), faces the same critical issues experienced throughout northern Nevada including growth, lack of workforce housing, lack of contractor availability, high construction

costs and lack of available workforce for new employment opportunities. The County continues to support renovation of the railroad and reinstatement of rail freight service, renewable energy development and up and downstream industrial clusters based existing businesses within the County. A strong recreation economy is being fostered to promote the extensive outdoor activities that the County has to offer. The County, City, School Board, and General Improvement Districts continuously work to provide adequate water and sewer services, strengthen educational programs and provide a high quality of life for residents.

### 3.1.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC DATA

White Pine County has a population of 10,030 reported in the 2010 U.S. Census. The American Community Survey 2013<sup>2</sup>-2017 five-year estimate reported a population of 8,032, representing a 19% loss over 7 years. Table 1 provides a summary of demographic and socioeconomic data for White Pine County, Nevada, and the United States. White Pine County represents .02% of the population in Nevada in the 2010 Census.

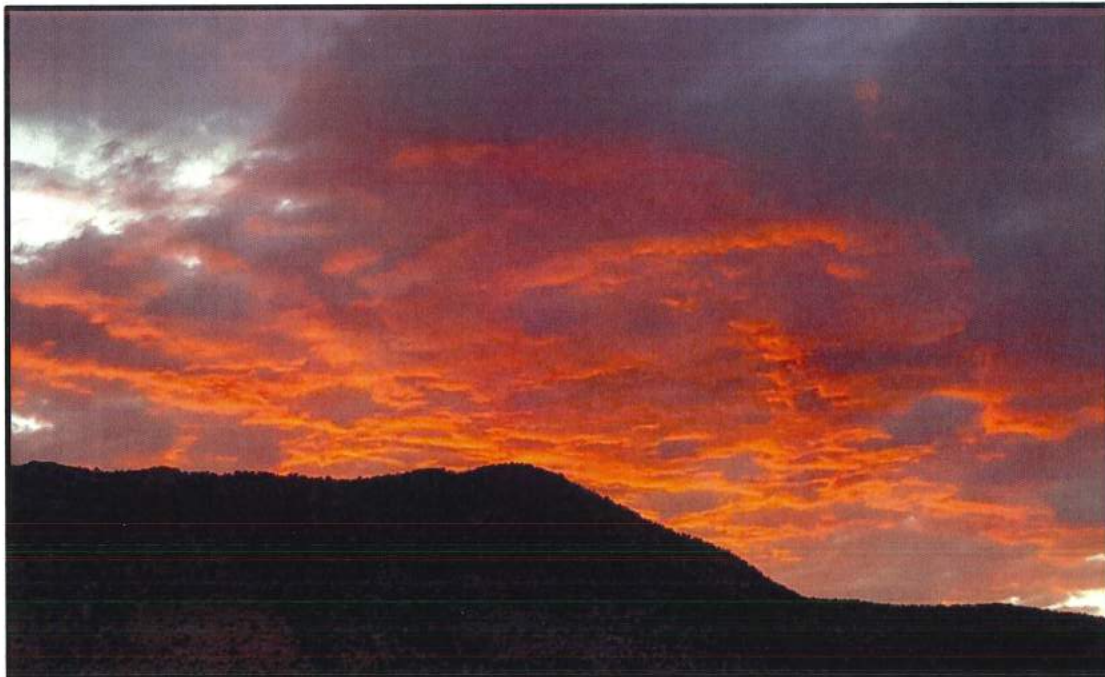


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**Table 1 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data, White Pine County**

Subject	White Pine County 2010	2017	Nevada <sup>i</sup> 2017	United States <sup>ii</sup> 2010
Population	10,030 <sup>2</sup>	9,858 <sup>9</sup>	2,700,551 <sup>iii7</sup>	308,745,538 <sup>8</sup>
Median Age (years)	40.8 <sup>2</sup>	39.4 <sup>9</sup>	36.3 <sup>7</sup>	37.2 <sup>8</sup>
16 Years and Older	8,129 <sup>2</sup>	8,032 <sup>9</sup>	2,292,486 <sup>iv7</sup>	243,275,505 <sup>8</sup>
65 Years and Older	1,494 <sup>2</sup>	1,562 <sup>9</sup>	420,330 <sup>7</sup>	40,267,984 <sup>8</sup>
Percent Minority	14.9% <sup>2</sup>	13.3% <sup>2</sup>	45.9% <sup>7</sup>	36.3% <sup>8</sup>
Average Household Size	2.42 <sup>2</sup>	2.37 <sup>13</sup>	2.65 <sup>15</sup>	2.58 <sup>v8</sup>
Disability Status	11.8% <sup>vi</sup>	35% <sup>vii14</sup>	10.3% <sup>16</sup>	12.0% <sup>17</sup>
Unemployment	6.5% <sup>viii</sup>	3.6% <sup>12</sup>	12.7% <sup>16</sup>	9.6% <sup>17</sup>
Persons without Health Insurance under 65 years	XX	11.2% <sup>9</sup>	14.0% <sup>16</sup>	16.7% <sup>17</sup>
Poverty Rate	13.0% <sup>9</sup>	13.02% <sup>9</sup>	11.9% <sup>16</sup>	13.8% <sup>17</sup>
Per Capita Income	\$21,615 <sup>ix</sup>	\$25,350 <sup>12</sup>	\$27,589 <sup>16</sup>	\$27,334 <sup>17</sup>
High School Graduate or Higher	90.4% <sup>2</sup>	83.0% <sup>9</sup>	84.3% <sup>7</sup>	85% <sup>8</sup>
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	19.6% <sup>2</sup>	17.6% <sup>9</sup>	21.8% <sup>7</sup>	27.9% <sup>8</sup>
Median Household Income	\$60,358 <sup>12</sup>	\$69,481 <sup>12</sup>	\$55,434 <sup>16</sup>	\$44,581 <sup>17</sup>

XX Not Available due to population size





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**Table 2. White Pine County Populations Trends**

Year	Population* White Pine County NV	Percent Change	Population <sup>7</sup> Nevada	Percentage of Change
2000	9,181		1,998,257	
2001	XX		XX	
2002	XX		XX	
2003	XX		XX	
2004	XX		XX	
2005	XX		2,381,281	6.2%
2006	XX		2,495,529	.58%
2007	XX		2,565,382	.72%
2008	XX		2,600,167	.34%
2009	XX		2,643,086	.62%
2010	10,030	9.02%	2,702,797	.21%
2011	9,884	-1.4%	2,718,170	.057%
2012	9,967	.08%	2,752,410	.24%
2013	10,023	.06%	2,786,547	.23%
2014	10,043	.02%	2,831,730	.60%
2015	9,893	-1.05%	2,883,057	.78%
2016	9,974	.08%	2,939,254	.91%
2017	9,858	-1.01%	2,990,039 (Est)	.70%(Est)
2018	9,475	-3.08%	3,034,392	





**Table 3 Labor History White Pine County / Nevada**

Nevada <sup>ki</sup>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Labor force – 16 years	1,387,343	1,401,953	1,378,876	1,385,312	1,401,801	1,425,711	1,424,596	1,465,320
Unemployment	123,758	145,293	153,671	132,141	110,467	96,238	148,467	116,285
Unemployment Rate	6%	7%	11.1%	9.6%	7.9%	6.8%	6.7%	5.1%
Total Employment	1,254,163	1,246,387	1,228,260	1,249,719	1,281,908	1,318,423	1,318,423	1,341,358

White Pine County NV <sup>1</sup>	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Labor Force – 16 Years	723	4,409	4,745	4,468	4,464	4,381	3,948	3,827	3,801
Unemployment	0	287	400	447	443	465	419	303	234
Unemployment Rate	0	3.8%	5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.7%	5.2%	3.8%	2.9%
Total Employment	723	4,122	4,345	4,021	4,021	3,916	3,529	3,524	3,567

Employment in White Pine County has historically been driven by natural resources (mining and agriculture), government jobs, professional and business services.

### 3.1.2 NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Mining

Robinson Nevada Mining Company is an open pit copper mine focused on Zero Harm for health, safety and the environment. It is a porphyry copper deposit located at Ruth, White Pine County, Nevada, in the Egan Range, 4 miles (6.4 km) west of Ely. The mine is comprised of three large open pits: Liberty, Tripp-Veteran and Ruth. The ore is extracted using conventional surface methods and is then processed into a copper-gold concentrate, and a molybdenum concentrate in an onsite concentrating plant. The concentrate is then shipped via truck to a storage facility in Wendover, Nevada until final shipment to customers. Since 2012 the mine has been owned and operated by Polish copper miner KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.



FIGURE 1 COPPER IS THE PRIMARY ORE MINED IN WHITE PINE COUNTY. GOLD, SILVER, ZINC, AND TUNGSTEN ARE ALSO A PART OF THE MINING INDUSTRY AT A SMALLER LEVEL. A TOTAL OF 264 MINES ARE LOCATED



## Great Basin National Park

Great Basin National Park is in central eastern Nevada within the Snake Mountains. Located completely within White Pine County, five mile west of Baker, Nevada, it is bordered on the west by Spring Valley and on the east by Snake Valley. Great Basin National Park became part of the U.S. Park System on October 27, 1986. It encompasses 77,100 acres offering a diverse array of experiences including the darkest night skies, ancient bristlecone pines, Wheeler Peak at an elevation of 13,063 feet and the mysterious subterranean passages of Lehman Caves. This diverse landscape offers camping, hiking, mountain biking and many more outside recreation opportunities.

## Outdoor Recreation Opportunities/Tourism

White Pine County offers a wide variety of outdoor activities including historic Ward Charcoal Ovens, Lehman Caves, several lakes, a glacier and the Nevada Northern Railway Museum including restoration and operation of historic railroad equipment. In addition, miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, camping, hunting, and star gazing in some of the darkest skies in the United States. All of these opportunities provide many avenues for economic development.

## Renewable Energy

Spring Valley Wind is located in White Pine County, Nevada. The facility was Nevada's first commercial wind power project built in 2012. The facility is on 7,680 acres of federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. This project can power 45,000 homes, having 152 facility megawatt capacity.<sup>xii</sup>

In addition to wind energy, White Pine County is pursuing development of solar energy farms and pumped storage hydropower projects.



### 3.1.3 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Broadband

**Special Circumstance Related to Fiber Based Broadband Service:** Ruth is located near the Robinson Nevada Mining Company (RNMC). RNMC is currently seeking fiber-based service to replace 16 total T1 lines. Eight (8) bonded T1's from the mine connect to upstream ISP service; seven (7) connect to dedicated connections to a commercial data center in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada and one (1) is to a back-up site in Ely. If fiber is brought to the mine, White Pine County Officials are hopeful this will potentially improve service in Ruth. The highest

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population density portion of Ruth lies between the nearest fiber interconnect on US Highway 50 and RNMC. Any fiber installed will pass directly by the populated area in Ruth.

White Pine County and the City of Ely formed the White Pine Broadband Action Committee (WPBAC) in August of 2017 to address the lack of scalable broadband access in the county. This lack of scalable broadband access is prevalent in both high-density and remote/rural population areas of White Pine County. Access to education and healthcare, communication with public safety, schoolwork, economic vitality, business innovation, entertainment and other critical services are increasingly delivered over a broadband Internet connection.

The lack of scalable broadband infrastructure and broadband services in White Pine County will limit the County's ability to:

- Retain jobs and existing business
- Increase tourism and destination location opportunities
- Foster telehealth initiatives and telehealth video-conferencing abilities for Nevada Department of Corrections at the maximum security prison
- Promote economic development efforts to attract and expand commercial business
- Conduct business without fear of Internet connectivity loss
- Provide life-long "K to Gray" education for its citizens
- Advance the capability for digital and distance learning
- Provide leading edge healthcare
- Ensure the timely delivery of government services to White Pine County residents
- Ensure timely and seamless public safety communication throughout White Pine County
- Benefit from cloud-based/streaming services currently rendered inoperable by poor broadband
- Expand home business capability

### Goals of the WPBAC:

The WPBAC set several goals for its work:

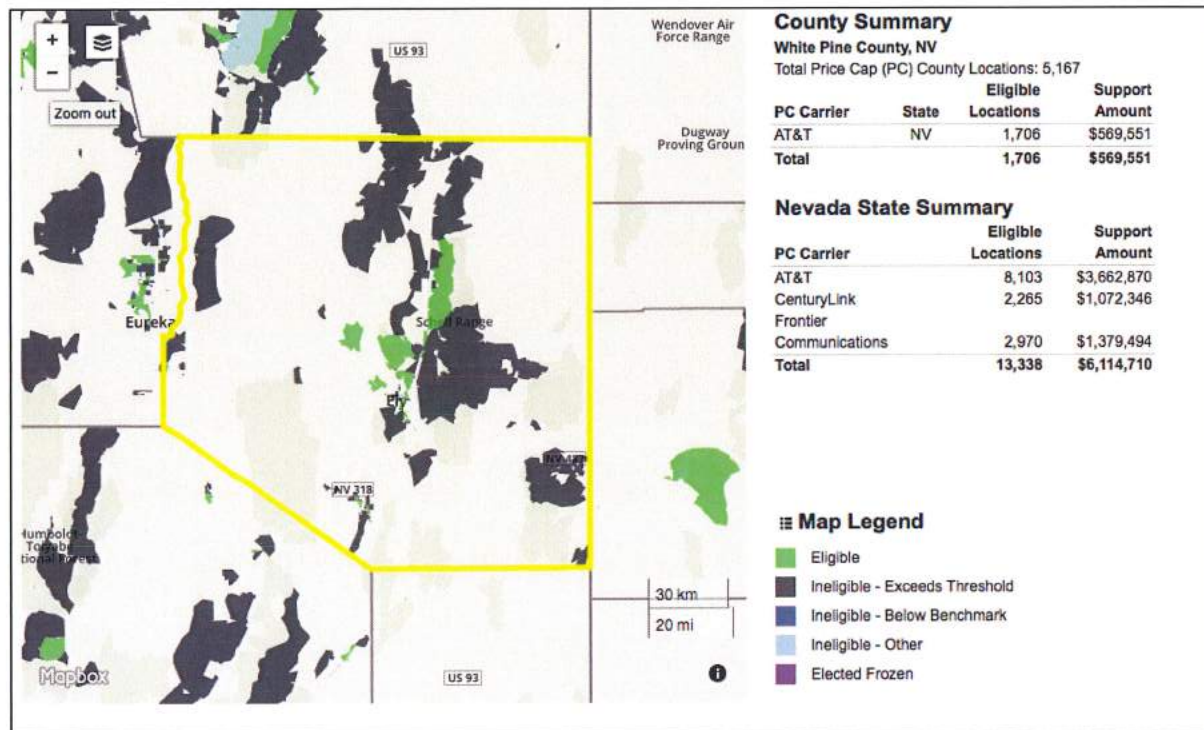
1. Throughout White Pine County create a scalable network solution to foster diversity and innovation, drive job retention and creation, stimulate economic growth and serve new areas of development in the community by providing service for a minimum of twenty (20) years from the date of first operation.
2. While the WPBAC prefers that the broadband solutions proposed by providers/vendors network be fiber based, all technologies will be considered, especially in lower density unserved/underserved areas.
3. Provide a flexible menu of broadband services, that improve service to the following eligible service areas:
  - a. Unserved/Underserved areas - Offer new or enhanced service in underserved and unserved areas of the county
  - b. Economic Corridors - Offer enhanced service along White Pine County's key business and high-density residential corridors (including Ely, McGill, Lund, Baker,



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Ruth, Cherry Creek and Preston) and connect broadband assets that serve remote areas of the county.

- c. Government facilities – Offer lit or dark fiber services to meet the administrative and public safety needs of White Pine County Government and municipal governments.



The incumbent carrier selected none of the high cost support for White Pine County. This means other carriers can bid to receive this support to supply 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload to these areas by 2021. This map shows that there was no Connect America Fund (CAF) funding accepted for White Pine County.

### Areas of Need

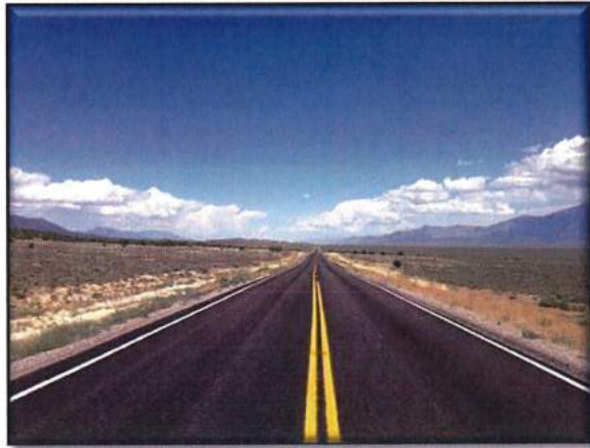
The WPBAC has identified three areas in need of new or improved service – 1. Unserved areas (Mapped in section 2A) 2. High population density areas services to residents and businesses (See descriptions in introduction and in 2B) and 3. Government facilities (2C)

### Unserved/Underserved Areas

According to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Connect America Fund map the areas in green in White Pine County are underserved.

### Roads

The White Pine County Roads Department has 2,326 centerline miles of roads of which 988 miles are classified as standard county roads qualifying them to be gas tax-eligible and maintained. Of those 988 miles of road, approximately 114 miles are paved.



### Transportation

White Pine County provides bus services that cover Ely, McGill, Ruth and the surrounding areas. It operates Monday through Friday for a fee of \$1.00 inside Ely City limits and \$2.00 outside of Ely City limits. Senior citizens and disabled individuals as well as their companions are requested to make a donation only and are not required to pay for services. All vehicles are wheelchair accessible via either a lift or ramp and have proper tie-downs and trained staff. All trips are on a first come, first serve basis. Trips may be taken for any purpose and to any location within the service area.

### Airport

White Pine County's airport, Yelland Field, covers 4,999 acres at an elevation of 6,259 feet. Yelland Field has two asphalt runways as follows: Runway 18/36 which is 6,018 feet in length and 150 feet wide and Runway 12/30 which is 4,825 feet in length x 60 feet wide. Services available at the airport include fuel, repairs, tie downs and hangars for transient activity. There are no restaurants or car rental services located at the airport.

### Education

White Pine County School District serves about 1,200 students who come from communities such as Ely, Baker, Lund, McGill, Cherry Creek, and Ruth. By Nevada School Performance Framework, there are three one-star schools, two two-star schools and two four-star school and a five-star school. The High school graduation rate is 82%. Two of the existing school buildings are showing their age. Issues at the elementary school include problems with asbestos and an old gymnasium with floor problems requiring the district to ban large events. The three-story middle school has no elevator and only one entrance that meets the federal Americans Disabilities Act. Entire grade levels have relocated to the first floor if a student has a disability. Since the schools are so old the repairs can be costly. Recently Norman Elementary launched a STEAM program, as well as a new writing program with a focus to increase skills. White Pine County School District also offers an adult education program.

White Pine County School District (WPCSD) educates a majority of the students in White Pine County with schools in Ely, Baker, Lund and McGill, including Steptoe Valley High School



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(alternative high school) and Mountain High School (adult high school located at Ely State Prison). The Learning Bridge Charter School located in Ely is a state public charter school encompassing grades K-8 with a maximum of 180 students. A generous USDA loan is funding the construction of a new school for the Learning Bridge which is scheduled to open this school year.

The legislature created a new funding formula that will be implemented in 2021. The essence of the formula will be to eliminate most categorical funding and tip the scales of funding to Clark and Washoe Counties. The 15 rural school districts are anticipating an unfortunate decline in overall funding, which will be very crushing to the current low K-12 education funding in Nevada.

In addition, all districts and states have experienced a critical shortage in teachers. The starting wage for a beginning teacher is in the 30K to low 40K range. Many entry-level teachers qualify for food commodities and having choking student debt. The Nevada State Board of Education allows for the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) for prospective teachers with college degrees in other majors to be employed as teachers while they take college classes in their teaching content area. The list of available and willing substitute teachers is even shorter than available licensed teachers. K-12 is a hard job that is certainly not sexy in today's society.



The WPC Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) process did capture the weakness of the extremely low star rating of the schools in WPCSD. Conversely, the Learning Bridge is ranked at 4 stars for the Elementary School and 5 stars for the Middle School. The low star rating of the public schools negatively impacts employee recruitment for local businesses and industry and is considered a serious weakness for WPC.

Hearing the on-the-ground perspective from WPCSD and the Learning Bridge Charter School leaders will illuminate other SWOT items that should be captured. In addition to the differences in the star ratings, there is a community and parental concern regarding the 4-day school week (WPCSD) versus the 5-day school week (Learning Bridge).<sup>xiii</sup>

### White Pine County Aquatics Center

The mission statement of the White Pine County Aquatic Center is to give our community a safe, clean, and enjoyable environment so that they can have a positive recreational experience. It boasts a competition size pool as well as a kiddie pool with a play feature. The center provides swimming lessons, a swim camp, a swim team, Aquacize classes and life guard training. Events sponsored by the Aquatic Center include the Sky High Triathlon and Swim Across Nevada for lap swimmers. In addition, the pool and the Center's multi-purpose room are available to rent for private events.





## **Great Basin College – Ely Center**

Great Basin College - Ely Center is the center of higher education in east-central Nevada. The facility has 11 classrooms, including one science lab as well as one computer lab. Offered at the Ely Center are live classes and classes conducted in synchrony with other Great Basin College locations via interactive video. Students may also take on-line classes via WebCampus using lab computers at the Ely Center or at home. The facility offers academic advisement and tutoring in writing and math, as well as, placement and proctored testing.

## **Libraries**

The White Pine County Public Library serves approximately 10,000 county residents. Its outreach services include a bi-weekly bookmobile to Lund, Cherry Creek, Baker and McGill. The bookmobile provides some of the text books and reading material for students living in the small communities of White Pine County. The library also provides three public service outlets to the senior center, county jail and the Ely Conservation Camp. A homebound library service is provided to those who cannot get to the County Library.

## **Museums**

### **Cherry Creek Museum**

Cherry Creek, once the largest town in White Pine County with a population of 6,000, has been the site of gold mining since the 1850s. Built in 1872, the Cherry Creek Schoolhouse is one of the two oldest standing schoolhouses in Nevada. It enrolled 56 students at its peak, and nearly burned down in 1901 when a gas-fueled lantern exploded nearby. In 1941 it was converted into a post office and in 1994 Walter Campbell turned it into the Cherry Creek Museum. The museum is open by appointment.

### **McGill Historical Drug Store Museum**

The McGill Drug Store Museum is a former drug store in McGill, Nevada. It operated from 1915 to 1979. The store closed when the nearby Kennecott Copper mine closed down, with its entire inventory intact, including prescription medication. It has been re-opened as a museum with more than 30,000 items as well as prescription records extending back to 1915. The museum is a resource for investigators of retailing and historical pharmacy practices. This is part of the White Pine County Public Museum.

### **Nevada Northern Railway Museum**

The Nevada Northern Railway Museum is a railroad museum located in Ely, Nevada and operated by a historic foundation dedicated to the preservation of the Nevada Northern Railway. Museum activities include restoration and operation of historic railroad equipment and various hands on experiences and a variety of special events including seasonal trains for Halloween and Santa-themed trains. This is one of the few places in the world where visitors can actually operate a steam locomotive, but this experience requires some advanced planning. Most recently Nevada

## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Northern Railway Museum has collaborated with an astronomer from the U.S. Great Basin National Park to offer darkest skies for train rides and star gazing.

### **White Pine County Public Museum**

Established in 1959 by the Ely Business and Professionals Women's Club the museum promotes the diverse stories and history on the White Pine County. White Pine County Public Museum offers many events throughout the year.

### **Emergency Services**

#### **White Pine County Emergency Medical Services**

White Pine County Emergency Medical Service's coverage area including mutual areas is approximately 11,500 square miles with the exception of the areas located within the city limits of Ely. This area consists of mountainous recreation areas, a National Park, remote project sites, five major highways and numerous small towns. This also includes a mutual aid agreement with Shoshone Tribal lands located in Duckwater and Millard County in Utah. There are four stations throughout the county primarily run by volunteer crews.

#### **White Pine County Fire Districts (Volunteer fire departments)**

There are seven volunteer fire departments within White Pine County. The departments include Cold Creek Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) in the northwestern part of White Pine County, Lackawanna VFD near Ely, Snake Valley VFD in Baker, Cherry Creek VFD located in north Steptoe Valley, Lund VFD located in Lund, McGill VFD located in McGill and the Ely VFD located within the city of Ely.



### **Tourism and Recreation Economy**

White Pine County is home to a wide variety of outdoor recreation adventures as well as museums, train rides, historic sites and community events which attract tourism from all over. A consultant was hired to identify what needs to be done to move Ely forward in the tourism market. Findings included dealing with abandoned buildings and empty lots that create unsightly experiences for visitors as they arrive and drive through town. The County took this report to heart and has been working to improve "first experiences" by assisting with the revitalization of downtown through support of the Main Street Program. Additionally, the County works with White Pine County Tourism and Recreation to cohesively promote organized outdoor recreation in conjunction with federal and state partners. The outcome is an improved tourist experience. White Pine County has 28 hotels and 33 places to eat and numerous adventures waiting to be had.



## Housing

*“Adequate housing is essential in supporting economic growth. To attract new businesses or industry, a community should be able to house new workers moving into the community” (Daniel et al, 1995)*

Without sufficient housing stock, White Pine County has found it very difficult to compete for economic development. Some of the challenges regarding housing the community is faced with and has been working to overcome, include:

- Being a mining community, White Pine County’s population variability has been historically tied to the price of minerals and the success or failure of the mining industry.
- Developers are very aware of the historic population variability tied to the mining industry and are very cautious about developing in a community almost exclusively dependent on the mining industry and mineral prices.
- The lack of adequate housing has severely impacted the ability of the County to attract, recruit and retain new industry and workers who want to live and work in the community.

March 2019, a group of local citizens began working on the “lack of housing” and held a “Housing Summit”. Developers, contractors, realtors and property owners were invited to attend and participate in solving the problem.

The group worked with UNR and Nevada Rural Housing on a “Needs Assessment for Housing”. The completed Assessment concluded that White Pine County could currently absorb approximately 100 single family houses and between 125 and 175 multifamily units. A team of local Realtors examined the Assessment and provided a “group opinion” based on current inventory and request for property, that if White Pine County could build 50 single family homes and 150 multifamily units it would stabilize our community and the market.

It was determined, based on salary information and debt ratio, that the target price for the single-family housing needs to be between \$180,000 and \$220,000 and the target rent for multifamily housing needs to be between \$800.00 and \$1,500.00 per month.

Since the Housing Summit in March of 2019, the group has vetted approximately 30 developers and contractors. The concern is always the same; developing in a community that has historically had highs and lows in population tied to the mining industry is too big of a risk. To assist with this the County made property available to a developer willing to build housing, a contract has been signed and the first of needed housing is in the process of being built. The County will continue to evaluate and pursue options to increase needed housing.





## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

White Pine County is host to the State of Nevada's Maximum-Security Prison. The Ely State Prison is down 60 employees because of the lack of housing. White Pine County recently passed a resolution declaring a "Critical Housing Need".

The local realtors report that currently they have a total inventory of 42 properties available in all of White Pine County. Many of these properties need numerous repairs to make them loveable. (2019 reported numbers) Median home price in White Pine County was \$139,500 in December 2019. There are four low income apartment complexes. Table 4 reflects 2016 and 2017 data available from Census.gov.

**Table 4 – White Pine County Housing Characteristics**

	White Pine County <sup>xiv</sup>				Nevada <sup>xv</sup>			
	2010-2016		2016-2017		2010-2016		2016-2017	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	4,444	100%	4,512	100%	1,200,517	100%	1,220,422	100%
Occupied Housing Units	3,158	71.1%	3,343	74.1%	1,030,701	85.09%	1,052,249	86.2%
Owner Occupied	2,309	73.1%	2,551	76.3%	564,787	54.8%	582,614	55.4%
Renter-Occupied	849	26.9%	792	23.7%	465,914	45.2%	469,635	44.6%
Vacant Housing Units	1,286	28.9%	1,169	25.9%	169,816	14.1%	168,173	13.8%
Rental Vacancy Rate	11.6%	XX	12.1%	XX	9.1%	XX	8.4%	XX
Owner Vacancy Rate	2.8%	XX	2.4%	XX	2.2%	XX	2.2%	XX

XX Not available due to population size



### 3.1.4 ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Industry diversification, job sustainability and community service growth will be the focus. The vision is to see White Pine County 5, 10 and 20 years from today with a thriving, multiple-industry employment base, utilizing a healthy workforce, supported by industry related educational programs, while enjoying community services and continued quality of life.

- As of 2019 the region's population declined by 6.3% since 2014, falling by 632. Population is expected to decrease by 3.4% between 2019 and 2024, losing 320.
- From 2014 to 2019, jobs increased by 0.6% in White Pine County from 4,526 to 4,555. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 7.3% by 6.7%. As the number of jobs increased, the labor force participation rate decreased from 58.5% to 57.7% between 2014 and 2019.
- Concerning educational attainment, 10.7% of White Pine County residents possess a Bachelor's Degree (8.1% below the national average), and 9.0% hold an Associate's Degree (0.9% above the national average).
- The top three industries in 2019 are Metal Ore Mining, State Government, excluding Education and Hospitals, (Local Government).
- Jobs grew by 29 over the last 5 years and are projected to grow by 288 over the next 5 years.

(Appendix C) Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED)





# WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

**Table 5 White Pine County Business Trends<sup>xvi</sup>**

Geographic area name: White Pine County, Nevada	2012 NAICS code	Meaning of 2012 NAICS code	Year	Number of establishments	Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)	First-quarter payroll (\$1,000)	Annual payroll (\$1,000)
	00	Total for all sectors	2016	185	2,728	37,776	147,717
	11	Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2016	1	a	D	D
	21	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	2016	8	1,124	24,917	91,248
	22	Utilities	2016	2	b	D	D
	23	Construction	2016	21	72	494	2,946
	44-45	Retail trade	2016	31	353	2,353	9,804
	48-49	Transportation and warehousing	2016	6	16	186	864
	51	Information	2016	4	15	181	760
	52	Finance and insurance	2016	7	39	380	1,537
	53	Real estate and rental and leasing	2016	7	29	155	482
	54	Professional, scientific, and technical services	2016	8	22	130	669
	56	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	2016	7	33	211	1,154
	61	Educational services	2016	1	b	D	D
	62	Health care and social assistance	2016	14	291	3,942	17,020
	71	Arts, entertainment and recreation	2016	4	19	121	527
	72	Accommodations and food services	2016	36	500	2,222	9,929
	81	Other services (except public administration)	2016	17	62	450	2,141





### **Mining**

Robinson Nevada Mining Company is an open pit copper mine focused on Zero Harm for health, safety and the environment. It is a porphyry copper deposit located at Ruth, White Pine County, Nevada, in the Egan Range, 4 miles (6.4 km) west of Ely. The mine is comprised of three large open pits: Liberty, Tripp-Veteran and Ruth. The ore is extracted using conventional surface methods and is then processed into a copper-gold concentrate and a molybdenum concentrate in an onsite concentrating plant. The concentrate is then shipped via truck to a storage facility in Wendover, Nevada until final shipment to customers. Since 2012 the mine has been owned and operated by Polish copper miner KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. Copper is the primary ore mined in White Pine County. Gold, silver, zinc, molybdenum and tungsten are also a part of the mining industry at a smaller level. A total of 264 mines are located within the boundaries of White Pine County.

### **Hemp**

Silver Lion Farms has made White Pine County its home. The growing conditions are perfect for large scale production of hemp. The greenhouse can grow 8 million seedlings every five weeks and produce more than 150M seeds in a single quarter, supporting 10,000 acres for production and generating over \$250 million in revenues annually. Silver Lion Farms working collaboratively with White Pine County will provide jobs and economic vitality to rural Nevada.

### **White Pine County Chamber of Commerce**

White Pine Chamber of Commerce provides networking and new business skills development.

### **Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority**

The Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority or NNRDA was established in 2012 as a result of Nevada's economic development plan, *"Moving Nevada Forward: A plan for Excellence in Economic Development 2012-2014"*. Published in February 2012, this document provided guidance to the recently created Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and what would become their Regional and Economic Development Authorities in an effort to curtail one of the most devastating economic recessions Nevadans had ever seen.

Initially, NNRDA's regional footprint consisted only of Elko County and the incorporated cities held therein. However, between 2014 and 2016 Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, and White Pine Counties united with NNRDA to create the largest geographic Development Authority in the State of Nevada. Today, NNRDA is responsible for the economic development of 41% of the State, encompassing over 45,000 square miles.

The Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority is comprised of both public and private members who consider themselves stakeholders in Northeastern Nevada's future. Together, these entities work in unison to help support NNRDA's efforts to promote the region, recruit new industries and empower existing business. Regardless of whether the members represent a governmental entity or are part of private enterprise, we can all agree that community growth and diversification ensures economic sustainability while enhancing our quality of life.



NNRDA works with Great Basin Community College Career Technical Education addressing workforce development for local and future employers. Some of the programs offered are degree programs while others are Career Technical Education (CTE) certification programs including:

- Diesel Technology
- Electrical Systems Technology
- Instrumentation Technology
- Welding Technology
- Industrial Millwright Technology
- Land Surveying Geometrics
- Digital Information Technology

### **Join Opportunities in Nevada (JOIN)**

JOIN offers individuals a variety of services to include occupational skills training, work experience opportunities and soft skills training.

### **Nevada Association of Employers (NAE)**

NAE offers training programs that include structured training series, webinars, on-site training, special events and panel discussions on a variety of relevant and timely topics for Nevada businesses.

### **Nevada Works**

Nevada Works provides funding to qualified service providers that work directly with a diverse population of individuals who are seeking employment, skills upgrading or who are entering the workforce for the first time. The philosophy is that a strong workforce is the key to a vibrant and diverse economy. Further, Nevada Works partners with the State of Nevada to identify qualified training providers eligible to receive WIOA Title 1-B (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) funds to provide training services to youth, adult and dislocated workers.

### **3.1.5 MAIN STREET PROGRAM**

The Main Street Approach is centered around transformational strategies. The transformational strategy is focused on a deliberate path to revitalizing or strengthening a downtown or commercial district's economy. The strategies are organized around the Four-Points: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion and Organization. The process includes a solid understanding of local and regional market data, and sustained and inclusive community engagement.

Nevada Main Street (NVMS) was established by AB 417 sponsored by Assemblywoman Heidi Swank. The bill unanimously passed and became effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Nevada is a Coordinating Program of the National Main Street Center and Main Street programs in Nevada's urban and rural areas.

Ely Main Street is a historic downtown district encompassing the west end of Aultman Street from Block 1 through Block 10. Within the district there are diverse businesses including restaurant, retail, lodging, services, schools and government offices. There are many historic buildings; some vacant and many requiring facade improvements. Public parks, murals, and art are displayed throughout the downtown district and events held throughout the year draw residents and visitors to downtown Ely. Within the downtown district there are many blighted and vacant properties and most of the properties have historic and architectural value. In conjunction with the Nevada Department of Transportation project, efforts to improve the downtown include new signage, facade improvements, creating public space in vacant properties, new small business recruitment and attracting residents and new events into the downtown.

The White Pine Main Street Association, a registered non-profit with the State of Nevada, consists of a board of directors composed of no less than 7 people and no more than 11 people. The organization was established in 2018 as the result of several community meetings and a workshop sponsored through a grant from the Nevada Department of Tourism. The White Pine Main Street Association has gained credibility within the community as a champion of the business community. The organization has demonstrated community-wide commitment to action and created measurable results in the district.

While the Main Street Association has multiple projects in action at one time there are three main goals. The first goal is downtown beautification which includes projects related to repainting benches, mosaic planter beds, public art expansion and facade and signage improvements. The second goal is events and activities to attract visitors and residents to the downtown district. These events focus on hosting grassroots' musical experiences in downtown parks. The third goal is marketing and education by working with local and emerging entrepreneurs to identify funding and marketing resources available to support business development. The organization supports the community, as well as, visitors to provide information and resources on opportunities, events, and attractions in the downtown district.

### **3.1.6 HEALTH CARE**

#### **Ely Mental Health Center**

The Mental Health Clinic provides diagnostic, treatment, and prescriptive services related to mental and behavioral disorders.

#### **Public Health**

White Pine County working with the Nevada State Health Division offers health services to the residents of White Pine County, from immunizations for children and adults to cancer screening and family planning. The services are provided at a low cost to residents of all ages and incomes using a sliding scale dependent upon income and family size.



### White Pine County Hospital District

White Pine County Hospital District which is also operated under the name William Bee Ririe Hospital is located in Ely, Nevada. This organization is primarily operated in the General Medical and Surgical Hospitals business/industry within the Health Services Sector. In operation for 95 years it generates \$26.7 million in annual revenues. The hospital offers full services including an emergency room 24 hours a day. The hospital implemented Telehealth Technologies in 2017 to provide an extra level of support to newborn babies in need of critical care support in the first hours of life. Telehealth technology, using high-definition cameras, audio equipment and televisions in the nursery, allows clinicians in Ely to quickly connect with neonatologists at Dixie Regional Medical Center, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Once connected, the neonatologists provide real-time evaluation of patients and coach bedside clinicians through specialized procedures that can stabilize critically ill babies for transport, or, in some cases, keep babies right here in Ely. University of Nevada at Las Vegas School of Medicine is planning expansion to include a Telehealth program for postoperative patients and for the elderly aging in place. This is still in the early stages of funding and planning.

### 3.2 **SWOT** (Appendix A)

Several strengths were identified for White Pine County. Two workshops were held on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. At both workshops all White Pine County communities were represented as well as education, mining, health care, local business and local government as allowed per the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

#### 3.2.1 **STRENGTHS WEAKNESS OPPORTUNITES AND THREATS**

Several **Strengths** have been identified in White Pine County. These areas the community felt are a priority and thus received the most votes for priorities:

- Rural lifestyle (11 votes)
- Outdoor activities/Hunting/Trails/Wildlife viewing (6 votes)
- Tourism (6 votes)
- Clean air and water (6 votes)
- Dark Skies (1 votes)
- Heritage/ Diverse cultures/ Ethnic diversity/ History/ Historical resources (4 votes)
- Railroad (5 votes)
- Great medical (3)
- Employment opportunities (30 votes)

Early goal statements developed in the area of strengths are:

1. Develop a regionalized trail head and mapping system
2. Develop a year-round outdoor activities opportunities marketing plan.
3. Develop more developed camping sites
4. Develop itineraries of what to do in White Pine County include various levels of skill
  - Family friendly
  - Expert
  - Moderate
  - Beginner

Along with Strengths **Weaknesses** were identified:

- Housing Barriers (12 votes)
- Housing Permanent – itinerant (6 votes)
- Education K-12 (8 votes)
- Infrastructure – Broadband – water – sewer – roads (6 votes)

Early goal statements in the area of weaknesses include:

1. Attract manufacturing
2. Lots of personality in Ely
3. Address privately held locked up property owned by absentee owners
4. Develop a way to work with Federal Land Managers (BLM)
5. Recruit builders or train builders from residents
6. Address outdated infrastructure, make infrastructure available for development  
Broadband sewer water paving
7. Diversify the economy
8. Update the K-12 school buildings
9. Access to state funding for transportation or develop a county wide transportation
10. Develop a marketing plan to make White Pine County a place that the mining employees want to make a permanent home.
11. Create a water use plan

These **Opportunities** were identified as potential areas of development:

- Tourism (10 votes)
- Rail Line (7 votes)
- Outdoor life style (9 votes)
- Airport (7 votes)
- Downtown (7 votes)

Preliminary goals developed from top Opportunities identified include:

1. Airport: Build out the airport to include connector flights to Elko, Ely, and Vegas
2. Attract a Car rental company to Ely
3. Tourism: Develop a marketing plan to include social media that will attract tourists highlighting:
  1. White Pine County assets to include:
    - Linking County opportunities for recreation
    - Connecting events-extended visits
    - Historical attractions
    - Star trains – Railway museum
    - Astronomy- Outdoor activities
    - Hunting lodge (partner with tribes)



2. Develop a plan to vitalize the downtown Ely area to include:
  - Fixing old buildings
  - Utilize ordinances to encourage property owners to improve property
  - Building on Ely's downtown historic buildings, murals, locally owned business (mom and pop)

**Threats** identified can be potentially developed into goals:

- Southern Nevada Water Authority (8 votes)
- Housing (10 votes)
- Lack of trained workforce (7 votes)
- Education (9 votes)

Threats identified will be worked into goals and strategies:

Education:

1. Attract and retain qualified teachers
2. Identify employment gaps
3. Assess needs for county schools
4. Work with other agencies to attract staff
5. Develop a plan to increase and strengthen trade skills
6. Partner with trade colleges
7. Parent education program

Southern Nevada Water Authority:

1. Develop a plan to communicate concerns including, hiring lobbyists, petitions, awareness and education campaign
2. Develop partnerships to address the water challenges

Housing:

1. Develop a community plan to address housing needs to address blight, assess needs
2. Work on trades recruitment or a trades educational program specific to housing needs

Workforce:

1. Develop a workforce plan to include partnerships with local industry, colleges and high school
2. Create a needs basement
3. Complete a capacity assessment of housing needs for workforce housing

### **3.3 VISION AND GOALS OF WHITE PINE COUNTY**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> the community and planning committee gathered to develop a mission and vision statement.

### **3.3.1 VISION STATEMENT OF WHITE PINE COUNTY**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the community engagement in a SWOT workshop and developed a mission and Vision statement for the county.

#### **White Pine County Mission**

*"White Pine County is creating a community with a diverse economy and elevated quality of life for our citizens and visitors through focused collaboration and cooperation."*

#### **White Pine County Vision**

*"As the premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts, White Pine County attracts all age groups. Our community is proud of our state-of-the-art infrastructure, quality housing at all price points and is home to the number one school district in the State. Welcome Home!"*

### **3.3.2 GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS OF WHITE PINE COUNTY**

**Goal 1. Develop a community plan to address housing needs to provide housing, address blight, assess needs, as well as trades recruitment or a trades educational program specific to housing needs.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Identify steps that can be taken to encourage developers to begin housing projects in all areas of White Pine County including single and multifamily units
- b) Recruit builders or train builder from residents creating a local workforce within the construction – to work with the Workforce development program
- c) Develop a marketing plan to make White Pine County a place that the mining employees want to make a permanent home
- d) Establish a town site forty to fifty miles west of Ely to provide housing for mine employees
- e) Work with local colleges to implement trades certification programs

#### **Action Steps**

- i. Refresh the existing needs assessment for housing
- ii. Identify steps that can be taken by governing bodies and others to encourage housing development
- iii. Identify available land for housing
- iv. Create a plan to attract developers and build identified housing units
- v. Discuss with local mines how we can develop a beautiful town site

**Goal 2. Address outdated infrastructure and provide infrastructure that can be available for development including broadband, sewer, water, paving, buildings and others.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Work with the State to prioritize fixing the Cave Lake State Park dam
- b) Deploy broadband throughout the County
- c) Maintain and update needed road infrastructure throughout the County



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- d) Work with the County's GID to upgrade and expand water and sewer systems
- e) Upgrade, maintain and expand County buildings to meet program needs

### Action Steps

- i. Complete an asset mapping specific to various infrastructure categories to identify areas for improvement and develop a plan to address them including the following categories:
  - a. Roads, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, drainage systems
  - b. Broadband for businesses and homes
  - c. Buildings including new facilities to address program needs, replacements, upgrades or renovations:
    - Renovation of the County's historic courthouse
    - Construction of a new youth/community recreation center
    - Add an ice-skating park to the front of the aquatic center
    - Utilize old annex area to provide community amphitheater with parking
    - Work through a public private partnership or other mechanism to develop and construct an assisted living center
    - Add parks to beautify the County and attract tourists as well as new residents
    - Continue developing facilities at the White Pine County Fairgrounds as a place to hold 4-H, ranching, rodeo, racing and other events
  - d. Water and sewer systems including the need for expansion of existing or development of new:
    - Renovation of the McGill Ruth Sewer and Water GID infrastructure
    - Expansion of the Baker Water and Sewer infrastructure to provide for community growth
    - Construct a new lift station north of Ely to allow for additional housing development
- ii. Specifically work with other entities on the following infrastructure items required to increase tourism:
  - a. Expansion of the Bristlecone Convention Center
  - b. Repair of the Cave Lake State Park dam

### Goal 3. Reduce energy costs by making a natural gas option available.

#### Objectives

- a) Bring natural gas into the County

#### Action Steps

- i. Work to identify ways in which to make natural gas available to residents of the County

## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- ii. Evaluate incentives (federal, state and local) that can be implemented to provide potential providers with affordable options

### **Goal 4. Work with economic development agencies to identify and recruit new businesses.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Focus on development of the County's renewable energy resources including:
  - Solar energy
  - Wind energy
  - Pumped storage energy
- b) Identify and recruit up and downstream manufacturing related to the hemp farm
- c) Attract other small manufacturing businesses
- d) Diversify the economy
- e) Increase the number of hotel rooms in the County
- f) Encourage the development of more RV parks

#### **Action Steps**

- i. Meet with the executive director of the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority to determine business sectors that match the County's overall goals and develop strategies to recruit and relocate these types of businesses to the County
- ii. Identify other economic development companies that can assist with identification and relocation of companies to White Pine County
- iii. Evaluate and provide incentives (federal, state and local) that can be used to assist businesses with relocation, construction and other needs to become successful in White Pine County

### **Goal 5. Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation/tourism plan to expand outdoor recreation accessibility and economic impact by developing outdoor businesses, services and events.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Develop a regionalized trail head and mapping system
- b) Develop a non-motorized trail expansion to include various levels of trail
- c) Develop a year-round outdoor activities opportunities marketing plan to include photo and video content around mountain biking, hiking, camping, OHV, horse trails and garnet hunting
- d) Increase the number of developed camping sites in the County
- e) Develop itineraries of what to do in White pine County that provide for various skill levels including:
  - Family friendly
  - Expert
  - Moderate
  - Beginners



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- f) Develop a plan to connect the communities of White Pine County through the creation of off-highway transportation alternatives to include motorized and non-motorized recreational trails
- g) Identify the personality within each area of the County and promote reasons to stop and visit each of them
- h) Link together various recreational events within the County to promote extended visits
- i) Develop a plan to promote water sports on Cave Lake and Comins Lake:
  - Fishing
  - Kayaking
  - Swimming
  - Paddle boarding
- j) Promote historical attractions
- k) Promote the Nevada Northern Railway – themed trains, museum, “be the engineer”
- l) Raise awareness of the White Pine County “dark skies” and astronomy opportunities
- m) Partner to provide excellent hunting opportunities:
  - Tribal partnership to create hunting lodge
  - Nevada Division of Wildlife partnership to create a hunting experience at the C-3 Ranch
- n) Deploy interactive kiosks in County parks to build awareness of what White Pine County has to offer

### Action Steps

- i. Create a community team consisting of local, state and federal partners to develop a timeline and implementation plan for all of the Goal 5 objectives by June 2021
- ii. Utilizing the community team, expand the plan to provide detailed comprehensive action steps including budget estimates for involved entities that can be acted on and budgeted for in FY2022 budgets by December 2021
- iii. Coordinated by the community team, actions will be implemented commencing July 2022 in the new fiscal budgets

### **Goal 6. Working with the Main Street America Program revitalize the Ely downtown area.**

#### Objectives

- a) Assist Ely, as possible, to address the issue of privately-held, locked-up properties and absentee owners
- b) Encourage that old buildings are repaired, renovated or removed
- c) Support efforts of Ely to utilize city ordinances that encourage property owners to improve their properties
- d) Encourage Ely to find ways to renovate their downtown historic buildings, continue to fund the murals and support locally owned “mom and pop” businesses

#### Action Steps

## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- i. Encourage the Ely Main Street Board of Directors to develop a detailed plan including resource and budget data to address the Goal 6 objectives by December 2020
- ii. Encourage the Ely Main Street Board of Directors to create an implementation plan working within identified budget constraints by June 2021

### **Goal 7. Develop a comprehensive education plan for all County schools.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Attract and retain qualified teachers
- b) Identify employment gaps
- c) Work with other agencies to attract staff
- d) Develop a plan to increase and strengthen trade skills
- e) Partner with trade colleges
- f) Provide a parent education program
- g) Update the K-12 school buildings
- h) Mitigation of old, unused school buildings

#### **Action Steps**

- i. Encourage the School District to develop a working group consisting of the White Pine County School District Superintendent, members of the School Board of Trustees, principals, teachers, parents and community members and partners
- ii. Support the working group's development of a strategic plan to address all of the Goal 7 objectives by June 2021
- iii. Have the working group investigate federal, state and private sector resources to aid in funding identified changes by December 2021
- iv. Plan implementation for July 2021 based on strategic plan prioritized by identified available funding resources

### **Goal 8. Develop a workforce plan to include partnerships with local industry, colleges and local high schools.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Create a needs assessment
- b) Partner with other agencies to develop workforce development programs
- c) Work with Great Basin College – Ely Center to establish trade occupations including:
  - Heating, ventilation and air conditioning
  - Plumbing
  - Carpentry
  - Electrician
  - Steam engine repair
  - Health care occupations
  - Information technology
  - Tourism and leisure



**Action Steps**

- i. Create a working group consisting of major industry representation, small business representation, K-12 school representation and County and local governments
- ii. Have the working group create a job needs list and identify gaps between current labor force and job market needs
- iii. Research other workforce development programs within the state and reach out to identify if it is possible to replicate the plan in White Pine County
- iv. Develop a plan to address the gaps including any available funding to assist
- v. Support the working group's development of a strategic plan to address all of the Goal 7 objectives by June 2021

**Goal 9. Maintain and expand efforts related to securing water in White Pine County.**

**Objectives**

- a) Monitor Southern Nevada Water Authority's next steps in their attempts to take control of White Pine County water
- b) Develop a plan that communicates County concerns related to water issues by hiring lobbyists, circulating petitions and engaging in public awareness and education campaigns
- c) Ensure there is adequate water in White Pine County to address current needs as well as future growth
- d) Work to develop new and maintain existing partnerships to address the ongoing water challenges
- e) Defend Nevada's existing water laws and maintain an ongoing awareness of any attempt to change them that would adversely impact the water rights of White Pine County
- f) Develop a link to the State Water Engineer's website to monitor any logs or applications that challenge White Pine County's water rights

**Action Steps**

- i. Maintain existing and develop new partnerships including county and local government, community leadership and those who have the necessary working relationships with state leadership to form a working team that will address Southern Nevada Water Authority actions to obtain water from northern Nevada
- ii. Maintain and update as necessary the existing County Water Use Plan as appropriate and required
- iii. Develop a White Pine County Natural Resources webpage on the White Pine County official website to keep the public informed that includes GIS data on monitored wells within the County and links to the State Water Engineer's website

**Goal 10. Enhance utilization of our already successful partnerships with federal and state agencies.**

**Objectives**

- a) Develop specific plans to enhance our working relationship with our various state and federal partners including but not limited to:
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - National Park Service
  - United States Department of Agriculture
  - United States Department of Transportation
  - United States Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration
  - Governor's Finance Office
  - Governor's Office of Economic Development
  - Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology
  - Nevada Division of Forestry
  - Nevada Division of Wildlife
  - Nevada Division of Aging
  - Nevada Division of Emergency Management

**Action Steps**

- i. Reach out to the appropriate field office and discuss the concern/wish to work cooperatively together and through a community meeting create an agreed upon working plan to move forward
- ii. Maintain the established relationships through continued communications
- iii. Make the communications plan a part of a community leaders job description to assure the continued commitment and behavior
- iv. Work specifically with the Bureau of Land Management on:
  - Ways to streamline transfer of federal lands to the state
  - Ways to minimize the impact of issues such as wild horses and sage grouse that adversely impact the agricultural and tourism industries

**Goal 11. Develop an expansion plan for the White Pine County Airport.**

**Objectives**

- a) Create an expansion plan for the White Pine County Airport
- b) Develop creative new uses for the airport including new hangars
- c) Attract airport associated businesses such as a car rental company
- d) Reestablish scheduled flight services
- e) Maintain and expand existing airport infrastructure

**Action Steps**

- i. Conduct a feasibility study to identify potential growth including connector flights to Elko, Ely, and Las Vegas
- ii. Work to reestablish subsidized essential air service to provide scheduled flights
- iii. Continue to maintain an updated airport use plan



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- iv. Reestablish the County Airport's 139 certificate
- v. Develop a maintenance schedule for all major infrastructure assets at the airport and establish an ongoing budget for it
- vi. Identify ways to encourage a car rental company to establish a business in White Pine County

### **Goal 12. Develop a county wide transportation plan.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Develop a county wide transportation plan
- b) Actively work on improving and expanding transportation infrastructure

#### **Action Steps**

- i. Conduct an asset mapping of current transportation programs and identify the gap
- ii. Engage federal and state officials to bring Interstate 11 through White Pine County and Ely
- iii. Renovate the rail system from Ely north
- iv. Work to get bus service to and from White Pine County

### **Goal 13. Create a comprehensive broadband plan for White Pine County.**

#### **Objectives**

- a) Create a plan to implement the changes needed based on the gap analysis identified during the asset mapping process
- b) Create a scalable network solution throughout White Pine County to foster diversity and innovation, drive job retention and creation, stimulate economic growth, and serve new areas of development in the community by providing service for a minimum of twenty (20) years from the date of first operation
- c) While the WPBAC (White Pine County Broadband Action Committee) prefers that the broadband solutions proposed by providers/vendors network be fiber based; all technologies will be considered, especially in lower density unserved/underserved areas
- d) Provide a flexible menu of broadband services, that improve service to the following eligible service areas:
  - a) Unserved/Underserved areas - Offer new or enhanced service in underserved and unserved areas of the county
  - b) Economic Corridors - Offer enhanced service along key business and high-density residential corridors in White Pine's higher density areas (including Ely, McGill, Lund, Baker, Ruth, Cherry Creek, Preston) and connects broadband assets that serve remote areas of the county
  - c) Government facilities – Offer lit or dark fiber services to meet the administrative and public safety needs of White Pine County Government and municipal governments.

#### **Action Steps**

## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- i. Working with partners create a broadband plan
- ii. Identify funding resources from federal, state, and private sources to fund the plan
- iii. Provide incentives to broadband companies to bring services into the County
- iv. Identify areas of the County that can be further developed when broadband technology becomes available

### 3.3.3 RESILIENCY PLANNING

On August 14, 2019 the White Pine County Board of Commissioners adopted the White Pine County-Eureka County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 which identifies hazard mitigation measures that can be taken after major disaster declarations and provides for implementation to assist with immediate recovery.

The White Pine County Commissioners met in December 2019 and January 2020 to discuss and identify resiliency planning. At the December 12, 2019 meeting these areas were identified. Some of these areas are included in the goal and strategies within this document.

1. Downstream manufacturing for hemp farm.
2. Engage in mine closure planning.
3. Work to streamline property transfer from the federal government.
4. Develop more effective strategies related to federal government issues of wild horse and sage grouse issues that are impacting the agriculture and tourism (hunting) industries.
5. Establish a town site 40 to 50 miles east of Ely to provide housing and development related to mining industry.
6. Actively work on improving and expanding transportation infrastructure including:
  - Engaging state and federal level officials to bring the Interstate 11 corridor through White Pine County and Ely.
  - Renovate the rail system from Ely north.
7. Bring natural gas into White Pine County and Ely.
8. Work to diversify the economy.
9. Engage developers and identify other strategies for addressing the housing. Some of these areas are included in the goal and strategies within this document.
10. Develop a plan to communicate concerns to the public and others including hiring lobbyists, developing petitions and implementing awareness and education campaigns.





## 4 ELY, NEVADA

### 4.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY, ELY

Ely is the largest city and county seat of White Pine County, Nevada. Ely was founded as a stagecoach station along the Pony Express and Central Overland Route, eventually becoming part of a major copper mining region. The railway arrived in 1906 and now is preserved as a historic site.



The Ely Renaissance Society is responsible for more than 20 outdoor murals and sculptures in the downtown area. Artists from all over the world have been commissioned to create images of area history. A historical village consisting of homes that depict the history of the people that lived and worked to create Ely. Being surrounded by mountains positions Ely for a robust year around recreation economy, attracting tourists to experience nearby are Great Basin National Park, and many other unique outdoor landmarks. Ely's population has fluxed from 4,255 as reported in the 2010 census to 4,124 in 2017. Ely is currently working on a robust plan to grow and create sustainability and a high quality of life.



Ely is a tourism center and is home of the Nevada Northern Railway Museum. The railroad museum features the Ghost Train of Old Ely, a working steam-engine passenger train that travels the historic tracks from Ely to the Robinson mining district.





**4.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, ELY****Table 6 Demographics, Ely, Nevada**

Subject	Ely 2010	Ely 2017	Nevada <sup>xvii</sup> 2010	Nevada 2017
Population	4,255 <sup>18</sup>	4,124 <sup>23</sup>	2,700,551 <sup>7</sup>	2,887,725 <sup>7</sup>
Median Age (years)	42.8 <sup>18</sup>	40.6 <sup>23</sup>	35.9 <sup>7</sup>	37.7 <sup>7</sup>
16 Years and Older	3,405 <sup>18</sup>	3,256 <sup>23</sup>	1,976,219 <sup>7</sup>	670,002 <sup>7</sup>
65 Years and Older	730 <sup>18</sup>	690 <sup>23</sup>	303,039 <sup>7</sup>	420,330 <sup>7</sup>
Percent Minority	12.3% <sup>18</sup>	13% <sup>23</sup>	27.4% <sup>7</sup>	45.0% <sup>7</sup>
Average Household Size	2.26 <sup>18</sup>	2.26 <sup>23</sup>	2.72 <sup>29</sup>	2.65 <sup>1</sup>
Disability Status	XX	39.9% <sup>25</sup>	47.4% <sup>30</sup>	10.03% <sup>16</sup>
Unemployment	XX	8.5% <sup>27</sup>	8% <sup>2</sup>	12.7% <sup>16</sup>
Persons without Health Insurance under 65 years	XX	7.04% <sup>24</sup>	14% <sup>28</sup>	14.0% <sup>16</sup>
Poverty Rate	XX	16.1% <sup>20</sup>	13.3% <sup>30</sup>	11.9% <sup>16</sup>
Per Capita Income	\$21,992 <sup>22</sup>	\$29,980 <sup>24</sup>	\$28,450 <sup>28</sup>	\$27,589 <sup>16</sup>
High School Graduate or Higher	78.5% <sup>21</sup>	86.6% <sup>26</sup>	23.8% <sup>30</sup>	84.03% <sup>7</sup>
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	10.2% <sup>21</sup>	16.4% <sup>26</sup>	5.8% <sup>30</sup>	21.8% <sup>7</sup>
Median Household Income	\$47,511 <sup>19</sup>	\$56,813 <sup>23</sup>	\$36,167 <sup>28</sup>	\$55,434 <sup>16</sup>

XX Not available due to population size

**4.1.2 ECONOMY, ELY**

Economic drivers in Ely, Nevada include, mining, outdoor recreation, tourism, cultural arts events, annual community events, historical sites, national and state parks, a historical Train Museum offering dark sky rides led by an astronomer are just a few of the choices.

There are several emerging industries including Hemp, (Silver Lion Farms) and Google Loon (Loon is a network of balloons traveling on the edge of space, delivering connectivity to people in unserved and underserved communities around the world). There is also a state prison offering employment.

**4.1.3 NATURAL RESOURCES, ELY**

Outdoor Recreation in Ely is a great draw. Mountains, trails and open spaces offer unique recreation opportunities unmatched throughout the state. For hikers and mountain climbers, White Pine County has the most 11,000+ foot peaks in the state, Wheeler Peak being the tallest at over 13,000 feet above sea level. Miles of dirt roads offer unlimited exploration with your ATV/OHV, dirt bike or bicycles, many roads leading to ghost towns or hot springs. Rock hounds enjoy the excitement of treasure hunting on Garnet Hill, while fishermen can relax along the shorelines of Comins Lake, Cave Lake State Park or any of the mountain streams that are stocked



with trout. Wildlife is abundant year-round, and photographers can catch trophy elk, deer, grouse, wild horses, wild cats and even big horn sheep in the high country of Great Basin National Park. Play a round on the most remote golf course in America before the snow flies and attention turns to snowmobiles, snowshoes, and backcountry skiing.

#### **4.1.4 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ELY**

##### **Education**

White Pine County School District is located in Ely. There are two high schools, a Middle School, The Learning Bridge, and an Early Childhood center. The Little People's Head Start/Early Head Start program is a federally funded pre-school and family support programs for low income families.

##### **Broadband**

Broadband services are slow in Ely. A community Broadband Committee has been formed to assess needs and working with the state Broadband Manager have developed goals to deploy high speed broadband throughout the County.

##### **Healthcare**

###### **Ely Community Health Center**

The Ely Community Health Center offers free, non-emergency healthcare to the Ely area. The clinic is open Thursday 5:30pm to 7:00 PM

##### **Hospital**

###### **William Bee Ririe Critical Access Hospital**

White Pine County Hospital District which also operated under the name William Bee Ririe Hospital is located in Ely, Nevada. This organization primarily operated in the General Medical and Surgical Hospitals business/industry within the Health Services Sector. In operation for 95 years it generates \$26.7 million in annual revenues. The hospital offers full services including an emergency room 24 hours a day. The hospital implemented Telehealth Technologies in 2017 to provide an extra level of support to newborn babies in need of critical care support in the first hours of life. Telehealth technology, using high-definition cameras, audio equipment, and televisions in the nursery, allows clinicians in Ely to quickly connect with neonatologists at Dixie Regional Medical Center, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Once connected, the neonatologists provide real-time evaluation of patients and coach bedside clinicians through specialized procedures that can stabilize critically ill babies for transport, or, in some cases, keep babies right in Ely, Nevada.

University of Nevada at Las Vegas School of Medicine is planning expansion to include a Telehealth program for postoperative patients and for the elderly aging in place. This is still in the early stages of funding and planning.

There are two (2) Health Departments in White Pine County, Nevada serving the entire county (8,873 square miles).

#### **William Bee Ririe Rural Health Clinic**

The walk-in clinic is for sudden onset of illness or injury, not chronic illness, or if you are unable to make same day appointment with your personal MD. Offers air medical transport service.

#### **Ely Mental Health Center**

The Mental Health Clinic provides diagnostic, treatment, and prescriptive services related to mental and behavioral disorders.

#### **Public Health**

The Nevada State Health Division partnering with White Pine County offers health services to the residents of White Pine County. Services range from immunizations for children and adults to cancer screenings and family planning. These services are provided at a low cost to residents of all ages and incomes using a sliding scale dependent upon income and family size.

#### **The Family Resource Center**

Providing services including family advocacy, referrals and information to community services. Also, they provide a Clothes closet, Car Seats and gas cards, grandparent respite care and childcare payments for those over the age of 55 raising their grandchildren. Additionally, they offer Teen Health Education which includes medically accurate, evidence-based education programs for teens, 9 to 18 years of age, focused on STD and HIV prevention.

### **4.1.5 HOUSING, ELY**

Without sufficient housing stock in Ely it is difficult to compete for new businesses moving to Nevada. Some of the challenges regarding housing the community is faced with and has been working to overcome include:

- Being a mining community, Ely's population variability has been historically tied to the price of minerals and the success or failure of the mining industry.
- Developers are very aware of the historic population variability tied to the mining industry and are very cautious about developing in a community almost exclusively dependent on the mining industry and mineral prices.
- The lack of affordable and adequate housing has severely impacted the ability for Ely to attract, recruit and retain new industry and workers who want to live and work in the community.

### **4.1.6 RESILIENCY, ELY**

On November 14, 2019 the City Ely City council had a resilience Planning Workshop [City of Ely Community Resiliency Planning \(Appendix B\)](#)

#### **Water (the event of loss of water supply or system failure)**

- Short Term – secure any remaining water in the storage tanks for fire suppression



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- Medium Term – Work with local contractors to haul potable water to determined distribution sites within the City of Ely
- Long Term – Identify new sources and/or needed repairs to the system

### **Food (in the event of loss of supply lines)**

- Short Term – Secure and ration existing food supplies at stores, food banks and other locations.
- Medium Term – Work with agencies and shipper to get new food stored to the area.
- Long Term – Work with educational entities (Ag Extension) to grow and provide as much local produce as possible (gardens, livestock, natural resources)

### **Economic (in the event of loss of major employers or another financial crisis)**

- Short Term – Coordinate with local welfare programs to assess and fill needs
- Medium Term – Work with outside welfare agencies should the needs outstrip the community's immediate capabilities to assist with the needs.
- Long Term – Diversify the local economic base to avoid extreme impacts from changes in certain sectors of the economy. Work on having broad and local education opportunities to service the new diverse economic base.

### **Housing - (in the event of a significant loss of the local housing supply)**

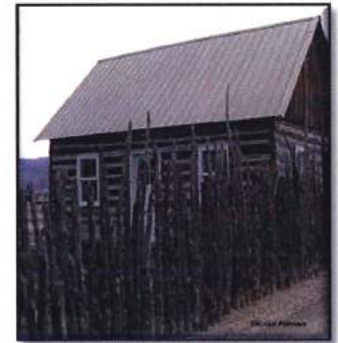
- Short Term – Work with the local schools, churches, and motels to house the displaced population.
- Medium Term – Work with the national agencies (FEMA) to provide more permanent short-term housing.
- Long Term – Draw workers from the local education programs to begin the rebuild of housing stock.

## **5 LUND, NEVADA**

### **5.1 BACKGORUND AND HISTORY, LUND**

Lund is a small town located in White Pine County on State Highway 318, 38 miles from Ely, Nevada. Lund was founded by the Mormons in 1898. The Mormons acquired the land due to an unconstitutional congressional bill. In 1887, the Edmund Tucker Bill was passed, allowing legal confiscation of personal properties owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Part of these properties were large herds of cattle, which were turned over to several ranches.

In 1893, the Edmund Tucker Act was declared unconstitutional and a resolution was passed to restore the confiscated church property. No action was taken on this until 1896, by which time the cattle herds were severely reduced from poor management, bad investments and severe winters. The three ranches were obliged to turn over everything they owned as replacement of the cattle they had lost, giving the Mormons the remaining cattle, horses, equipment and a large piece of land to begin colonizing.



Lund was named after Apostle Anthon H. Lund, one of the men who surveyed the ranches located there and who gave a favorable report to the church regarding colonization. The church purchased more property to supplement the ranches and formed the Nevada Lund and Livestock Company, which oversaw the division of land. The 2010 census reported Lund population at 282<sup>31</sup>, decreasing to 265 in 2017<sup>31</sup>. Agriculture is the driving economic factor with one tractor manufacturing and wholesale facility in 2018.

### 5.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, LUND

**Table 7 Demographics, Lund, Nevada**

Subject	Lund 2010	Lund 2017	Nevada <sup>xviii</sup> 2010	Nevada 2017
Population	282 <sup>31</sup>	65 <sup>31</sup>	2,700,551 <sup>7</sup>	2,887,725 <sup>7</sup>
Median Age (years)	59.3 <sup>31</sup>	32.2 <sup>31</sup>	35.9 <sup>7</sup>	37.7 <sup>7</sup>
16 Years and Older	233 <sup>31</sup>	38 <sup>31</sup>	1,976,219 <sup>7</sup>	670,002 <sup>7</sup>
65 Years and Older	59 <sup>31</sup>	0 <sup>31</sup>	303,039 <sup>7</sup>	420,330 <sup>7</sup>
Percent Minority	0 <sup>31</sup>	0 <sup>31</sup>	27.4% <sup>7</sup>	45.0% <sup>7</sup>
Average Household Size	2.74 <sup>36</sup>	XX <sup>36</sup>	2.72 <sup>29</sup>	2.65 <sup>1</sup>
Disability Status	XX <sup>35</sup>	0 <sup>35</sup>	47.4% <sup>30</sup>	10.03% <sup>16</sup>
Unemployment	XX <sup>32</sup>	XX <sup>32</sup>	8% <sup>2</sup>	12.7% <sup>16</sup>
Persons without Health Insurance under 65 years	XX <sup>33</sup>	58.5%	14% <sup>28</sup>	14.0% <sup>16</sup>
Poverty Rate	XX <sup>33</sup>	XX <sup>33</sup>	13.3% <sup>30</sup>	11.9% <sup>16</sup>
Per Capita Income	\$24,512 <sup>32</sup>	XX <sup>32</sup>	\$28,450 <sup>28</sup>	\$27,589 <sup>16</sup>
High School Graduate or Higher	37% <sup>34</sup>	XX <sup>34</sup>	23.8% <sup>30</sup>	84.03% <sup>7</sup>
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	12.4% <sup>34</sup>	XX <sup>34</sup>	5.8% <sup>30</sup>	21.8% <sup>7</sup>
Median Household Income	\$46,385 <sup>33</sup>	XX <sup>33</sup>	\$36,167 <sup>28</sup>	\$55,434 <sup>16</sup>

XX Not Available due to population size

### 5.1.2 ECONOMY, LUND

Farming and ranching is the primary economic driver. Carter Agri-Systems provides farm equipment, tractor sales and ranch supplies.

### 5.1.3 NATURAL RESOURCES, LUND

Lund is a farming and ranching community.

### 5.1.4 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, LUND



### **Education**

Lund Combined Schools is a wonderful facility nestled against the Egan Range in the rural farming community of Lund, Nevada. It is a K-12 school with an enrollment of approximately 80 students.

### **Broadband**

In Lund, Nevada 100.00% of the population has access to broadband Internet, however, 100.00% of the population does not have access to wired broadband Internet access.

## **5.1.5 GOALS, LUND**

### **Goal 1. Improve infrastructure in the community including but not limited to:**

- a. Developing bike paths, walking paths and sidewalks
- b. Improving cell service in the area as there are no new land lines being installed
- c. Working with the County Road Department, Regional Transportation Commission, the Nevada Department of Transportation and other resources to improve roads
- d. Developing and implementing a plan to improve lighting throughout the community

### **Goal 2. Work on economic diversification through:**

- a. Slowing traffic down through town to provide a safer environment and to encourage people to stop and visit local attractions
- b. Addressing the housing shortage to make Lund a better option to relocate to
- c. Eliminating blighted homes and properties to improve the overall appearance of Lund
- d. Continued work on and improvements to available emergency services

### **Goal 3. Improve local area attractions including:**

- a. Improvements to playgrounds and parks that will provide better spaces for enjoyment, entertainment and events for citizens as well as visitors
- b. Move the existing museum to the community center to provide better access and exposure to visitors

## **6 BAKER, NEVADA**

### **6.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY, BAKER**

Baker is a very small unincorporated community, located at the beginning of the primary road access to Great Basin National Park (Nevada Highway 488). Baker is named after an early settler, George W. Baker. The 2010 Census reported a population of 68<sup>37</sup> and realized a decline to 52<sup>37</sup> as reported in the 2017 ACS 5-year estimates. Beside Great Basin National Park, Baker has other sites attracting tourists to visit and stay. Some of those other areas include Archaeological sites, Baker Creek Loop Trails, Lehman Caves as well as other trails and sites located close by.

### 6.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, BAKER

**Table 8 Demographics, Baker, Nevada**

Subject	Baker 2010	Baker 2017	Nevada <sup>kix</sup> 2010	Nevada 2017
Population	68 <sup>37</sup>	52 <sup>37</sup>	2,700,551 <sup>7</sup>	2,887,725 <sup>7</sup>
Median Age (years)	67 <sup>37</sup>	32.9 <sup>37</sup>	35.9 <sup>7</sup>	37.7 <sup>7</sup>
16 Years and Older	48 <sup>37</sup>	52 <sup>37</sup>	1,976,219 <sup>7</sup>	670,002 <sup>7</sup>
65 Years and Older	24 <sup>37</sup>	8 <sup>37</sup>	303,039 <sup>7</sup>	420,330 <sup>7</sup>
Percent Minority	0 <sup>37</sup>	0 <sup>37</sup>	27.4% <sup>7</sup>	45.0% <sup>7</sup>
Average Household Size	2.19 <sup>40</sup>	2.23 <sup>41</sup>	2.72 <sup>29</sup>	2.65 <sup>1</sup>
Disability Status	XX <sup>18</sup>	0 <sup>18</sup>	47.4% <sup>30</sup>	10.03% <sup>16</sup>
Unemployment	XX <sup>38</sup>	XX <sup>38</sup>	8% <sup>2</sup>	12.7% <sup>16</sup>
Persons without Health Insurance under 65 years	XX <sup>38</sup>	0 <sup>38</sup>	14% <sup>28</sup>	14.0% <sup>16</sup>
Poverty Rate	XX <sup>38</sup>	XX <sup>38</sup>	13.3% <sup>30</sup>	11.9 <sup>16</sup>
Per Capita Income	\$99,446 <sup>38</sup>	\$25,046 <sup>38</sup>	\$28,450 <sup>28</sup>	\$27,589 <sup>16</sup>
High School Graduate or Higher	XX <sup>39</sup>	XX <sup>39</sup>	23.8% <sup>30</sup>	84.03% <sup>7</sup>
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	XX <sup>39</sup>	XX <sup>39</sup>	5.8% <sup>30</sup>	21.8% <sup>7</sup>
Median Household Income	\$16,979 <sup>38</sup>	\$51,170 <sup>38</sup>	\$36,167 <sup>28</sup>	\$55,434 <sup>16</sup>

XX Not Available due to population size

### 6.1.2 ECONOMY, BAKER

Baker is the gateway to Great Basin National Park, offering many spectacular outdoor activities. Exploring Lehman Caves, hiking one of the many trails, mountain biking, Archaeological sites, and a visit to the Bristlecone Pines, the oldest known species of tree dating over 5,000 years. Over 200,000 visitors a year with a majority of those driving through Baker to enter the park.





### 6.1.3 NATURAL RESOURCES, BAKER

**Great Basin National Park, Great Basin National Park** is an American national park located in White Pine County in east-central Nevada, near the Utah border, established in 1986. The park is most commonly entered by way of Nevada State Route 488, which is connected to U.S. Routes 6 and 50 by Nevada State Route 487 5 miles west of Baker.

### 6.1.4 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, BAKER

Baker has one school K-12 with a student enrollment of 12.

### 6.1.5 GOALS, BAKER

Baker's goals are stated within the White Pine County goals.

## 7 RUTH, NEVADA

### 7.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY, RUTH

Ruth is a census-designated place in White Pine County, Nevada, United States. Founded in 1903, with a population of 440 reported in the 2010 census<sup>43</sup>. Ruth, built as a company town for the adjacent Robinson Mine, a large open pit copper mine, which is still in operation as of 2018.



Ruth began as a settlement for workers of the White Pine Copper Company in 1903. It derived its name from the Ruth mining claim, which was named for Ruth McDonald, daughter of the original owner of the mining claim.

Nevada Consolidated Copper Company developed Ruth as a company town, managing all city administrative service as well as owning all housing. Saloons and bordellos were not permitted in the company town but were plentiful in the neighboring community of Riepetown.

Ruth ceased being a company town in 1955 when the houses were sold to the John W. Galbreath Company. Occupants were given the opportunity to purchase their homes. Around this time the community was moved two miles north to make way for expansion of the Deep Ruth mine. In 1978 Kennecott closed the mines in Ruth, which went into decline. The elementary school closed in 1986. Today, 2018 an open-pit copper mine is still in operation. 2017 Census 5-year population estimates reported 276<sup>42</sup>.

## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

### 7.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, RUTH

**Table 9 Demographics, Ruth, Nevada**

Subject	Ruth 2010	Ruth 2017	Nevada <sup>xx</sup> 2010	Nevada 2017
Population	440 <sup>43</sup>	276 <sup>42</sup>	2,700,551 <sup>7</sup>	2,887,725 <sup>7</sup>
Median Age (years)	36.7 <sup>43</sup>	53.4 <sup>42</sup>	35.9 <sup>7</sup>	37.7 <sup>7</sup>
16 Years and Older	332 <sup>43</sup>	225 <sup>42</sup>	1,976,219 <sup>7</sup>	670,002 <sup>7</sup>
65 Years and Older	46 <sup>43</sup>	52 <sup>42</sup>	303,039 <sup>7</sup>	420,330 <sup>7</sup>
Percent Minority	6.06% <sup>43</sup>	4.3% <sup>42</sup>	27.4% <sup>7</sup>	45.0% <sup>7</sup>
Average Household Size	2.63 <sup>43</sup>	3.91 <sup>46</sup>	2.72 <sup>29</sup>	2.65 <sup>1</sup>
Disability Status	XX <sup>45</sup>	40% <sup>45</sup>	47.4% <sup>30</sup>	10.03% <sup>16</sup>
Unemployment	XX <sup>44</sup>	XX <sup>44</sup>	8% <sup>2</sup>	12.7% <sup>16</sup>
Persons without Health Insurance under 65 years	XX <sup>44</sup>	35% <sup>44</sup>	14% <sup>28</sup>	14.0% <sup>16</sup>
Poverty Rate	XX <sup>45</sup>	15% <sup>45</sup>	13.3% <sup>30</sup>	11.9% <sup>16</sup>
Per Capita Income	\$19,053 <sup>44</sup>	\$22,849 <sup>44</sup>	\$28,450 <sup>28</sup>	\$27,589 <sup>16</sup>
High School Graduate or Higher	349 <sup>45</sup>	60 <sup>45</sup>	23.8% <sup>30</sup>	84.03% <sup>7</sup>
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	0 <sup>45</sup>	18 <sup>45</sup>	5.8% <sup>30</sup>	21.8% <sup>7</sup>
Median Household Income	\$51,429 <sup>44</sup>	\$68,750 <sup>44</sup>	\$36,167 <sup>28</sup>	\$55,434 <sup>16</sup>

XX Not Available due to population size

### 7.1.2 ECONOMY, RUTH

#### Mining

##### Robinson Mine

The Robinson Mine is located in White Pine County, Nevada, at an average altitude of 6,988 feet above sea level. The mine includes three large pits: the currently active Ruth and areas without ongoing mining operations – Tripp-Veteran and Liberty. Mining is conducted by conventional open pit methods. It comprises extraction using blasting materials, ore loading and transport to a processing plant. The ore is crushed and ground, and then subjected to flotation process. Produced concentrate is thickened and filtered. The copper concentrate with appropriate moisture level is then transported to storage facilities in Wendover, Nevada.

### 7.1.3 NATURAL RESOURCES, RUTH

Ruth provides a small rural community with various outdoor activities including hiking, biking, hunting, camping and fishing. White Pine County offers a dark skies environment for the astronomers.



#### **7.1.4 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, RUTH**

##### **Education**

**Public Schools:** the students attend school in Ely, Nevada

##### **Broadband**

**Special Circumstance Related to Fiber Based Broadband Service:** Ruth is located near the Robinson Copper Mine. The Robinson Copper mine is currently seeking fiber-based service to replace 16 total T1 lines. Eight (8) bonded T1's from the mine connect to upstream ISP service; seven (7) connect to dedicated connections to a commercial data center in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada and one (1) is to a back-up site in Ely. If fiber is brought to the mine, White Pine County Officials are hopeful this will potentially improve service in Ruth. The highest population density portion of Ruth lies between the nearest fiber interconnect on US50 and the Robinson Mine. Any fiber installed will pass directly by the populated area in Ruth.

#### **7.1.5 GOALS, RUTH**

##### **Goal 1. Improve infrastructure in the community including but not limited to:**

- a. Develop a stable long-term water source
- b. Improve curbs and gutters
- c. Continue the ongoing streetlight project to provide brighter and more energy efficient lights

##### **Goal 2. Improve availability of leisure time activities for residents by exploring options such as:**

- a. Obtaining new equipment for the parks such as playground equipment, gazebos, restrooms, outdoor grills, etc.
- b. Encouraging and assisting with the development of a variety of activities for citizens of all ages that can target families, adults or other demographics within the community

##### **Goal 3. Work toward expanding and diversifying the economy including but not limited to:**

- a. Attracting a small grocery store, mini mart and/or gas station that will provide for the immediate needs of citizens without having to travel to Ely
- b. Attracting a broadband service provider that has an affordable price for home internet and stable connectivity for businesses
- c. Working to correct blighted properties to make Ruth a more attractive place to visit and live
- d. Encouraging expansion of the Nevada Northern Railroad through to the Ruth Depot
- e. Developing a Ruth Park to celebrate the history of Ruth by obtaining donations of mining equipment

## 8 MCGILL

### 8.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The town of McGill is in White Pine County, Nevada, in the Steptoe Valley eleven miles north of the county seat, Ely. McGill is a former "company town" established to house workers at a copper reduction facility (smelter). As with many other towns in rural Nevada, the fortunes of McGill are linked to the ups and downs of the metal mining industry. Copper deposits in the area were discovered in the 1870's but remained unexploited until new technologies led to a "copper boom" in 1903. A railroad was built from the mining area located west of Ely into the Steptoe Valley, then north to a connection with the Southern Pacific line. A copper reduction plant was built on a bench overlooking the McGill Ranch in Steptoe Valley, and the first trainload of copper ore arrived at the McGill plant in 1908.



The town of McGill was built in phases, starting in 1908 and continuing through the 1930's, with housing for reduction plant workers and their families, a commercial area to provide goods and services and various public/recreational facilities including a swimming pool, ball field, clubhouse and parks. The Kennecott Copper Company exercised control over many aspects of town life. Neighbourhoods were established for the workers, and their families, who came from many countries throughout the world to work at the smelter. Kennecott provided recreational opportunities for workers and their families, maintained houses and grounds, and even determined the number and type of private commercial enterprises allowed.

Starting in the 1950's, changing company policies led to Kennecott's sale of employee housing to another company, which subsequently gave current occupants the opportunity to buy their own houses. After the 1950's workable copper reserves become depleted and costs of production increased, leading to the closing of the reduction/smelting operation in 1983.

The population of McGill reached a high point of 3,017 people in 1930, then population fell through the later part of the 20th century as mine production diminished. After Kennecott closed the smelter in 1983 the population dropped to 1,258, and the 2000 census showed a population of 1,054. According to trends, however, McGill is not becoming a ghost town. While population continued to fall in the years 1970 to 2000, it did not fall as sharply as it did in the previous decades during which Kennecott was scaling back operations.

The State of Nevada opened a maximum-security prison, the Ely State Prison, on the western flank of the Steptoe Valley between Ely and McGill in 1989. This prison employs 341 people, some of whom live in McGill. In addition to these relatively new residents, McGill residents and White Pine County real estate professionals report that there appears to be an emerging market for McGill houses among retirees and second home buyers, many of them from the southern Nevada/Las Vegas region.

-Excerpt from McGill Business Plan dated 6/10/04



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Today, McGill is located close to a state maximum security prison where most employment comes from. A secondary emerging market is for retirees and second home buyers.

### 8.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, MCGILL

**Table 10 Demographics, McGill, Nevada**

Subject	McGill 2010	McGill 2017	Nevada <sup>xxi</sup> 2010	Nevada 2017
Population	1,148 <sup>47</sup>	1,318 <sup>48</sup>	2,700,551 <sup>7</sup>	2,887,725 <sup>7</sup>
Median Age (years)	44.6 <sup>47</sup>	48.5 <sup>48</sup>	35.9 <sup>7</sup>	37.7 <sup>7</sup>
16 Years and Older	891 <sup>47</sup>	898 <sup>48</sup>	1,976,219 <sup>7</sup>	670,002 <sup>7</sup>
65 Years and Older	216 <sup>47</sup>	256 <sup>48</sup>	303,039 <sup>7</sup>	420,330 <sup>7</sup>
Percent Minority	3.23% <sup>47</sup>	6.1% <sup>48</sup>	27.4% <sup>7</sup>	45.0% <sup>7</sup>
Average Household Size	2.43 <sup>47</sup>	3.82 <sup>51</sup>	2.72 <sup>29</sup>	2.65 <sup>1</sup>
Disability Status	XX <sup>49</sup>	189 <sup>49</sup>	47.4% <sup>30</sup>	10.03% <sup>16</sup>
Unemployment	36.9% <sup>49</sup>	XX <sup>49</sup>	8% <sup>2</sup>	12.7% <sup>16</sup>
Persons without Health Insurance under 65 years	XX <sup>49</sup>	251 <sup>49</sup>	14% <sup>28</sup>	14.0% <sup>16</sup>
Poverty Rate	XX <sup>49</sup>	.07% <sup>49</sup>	13.3% <sup>30</sup>	11.9% <sup>16</sup>
Per Capita Income	\$21,556 <sup>49</sup>	\$27,543 <sup>49</sup>	\$28,450 <sup>28</sup>	\$27,589 <sup>16</sup>
High School Graduate or Higher	114 <sup>50</sup>	289 <sup>50</sup>	23.8% <sup>30</sup>	84.03% <sup>7</sup>
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	59 <sup>50</sup>	218 <sup>50</sup>	5.8% <sup>30</sup>	21.8% <sup>7</sup>
Median Household Income	\$49,832 <sup>49</sup>	\$54,929 <sup>49</sup>	\$36,167 <sup>28</sup>	\$55,434 <sup>16</sup>

XX not available due to population size

### 8.1.2 ECONOMY, MCGILL

The majority of residents are employed at the Ely State Prison and mining. Some other economic drivers are outdoor recreation and tourism.

### 8.1.3 NATURAL RESOURCES, MCGILL

McGill offers a beautiful rural lifestyle with fishing, hunting, camping, and various other outdoor activities. McGill was the mill and smelter town for Kennecott Copper mine located near Ruth Nevada.



#### **8.1.4 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, MCGILL**

##### **Education**

McGill has on elementary school K-5<sup>th</sup> grades with 141 students.

##### **Water and Sewer**

McGill-Ruth Sewer & Water District is a General Improvement District provides water and sewer facilities

#### **8.1.5 GOALS, MCGILL**

A meeting held in the community in February 2020 several goals were identified:

**Goal 1. Develop/Improve Community Infrastructure to provide for safe, healthy and sanitary conditions throughout the community including but not limited to:**

- a. Effective drainage
- b. Sidewalks
- c. Curbs & gutters
- d. Water and sewer
- e. Invest in more cost effective and efficient lighting
- f. Pursue development of low-income housing/apartments
- g. Pursue development of senior housing/apartments
- h. Address blighted homes including those in the name of absentee landowners
- i. Reduce/eliminate invasive weed species

**Goal 2. Maintain and develop parks and natural resources in and near the Town of McGill including but not limited to:**

- a. Continue working on the various aspects of the McGill Parks Master Plan
- b. Maintain and continue to improve the McGill pool
- c. Clean up and develop Bassett Lake
- d. Identify and evaluate alternate resources to provide water to McGill

**Goal 3. Work toward expanding and diversifying the economy including but not limited to:**

- a. Improve broadband options for both home and business to attract and retain businesses and the employees needed to run them
- b. Explore the Main Street Program for the benefits it may bring to McGill
- c. Promote McGill as a wonderful place to relocate business and families through:
  - i. Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority
  - ii. Small Business Association
  - iii. Governor's Office on Economic Development
  - iv. White Pine County Tourism and Recreation
- d. Expand railroad to provide service from Currie to McGill to Ely improving commercial transportation options
- e. Increase exposure of McGill through expanded website and various social media websites



## 9 PRESTON

### 9.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Preston is a census-designated place in White Pine County, Nevada, United States. The community's economy is based on agriculture and ranching. Preston is at an elevation of 5,636 feet (1,718 m). In the 2010 census it had a population of 78<sup>53</sup>. The Median Household income in Preston is \$60,441.

Preston is located 8.5 road miles north of Lund on NV 318 and 30 road miles south of Ely taking US6 and NV318. Most of the population resides in a .75 square mile area ½ mile west of NV318. feet (1,718 m). In the 2010 census it had a population of 78<sup>53</sup>. The Median Household income in Preston is \$60,441.

Preston is located 8.5 road miles north of Lund on NV 318 and 30 road miles south of Ely taking US6 and NV318. Most of the population resides in a .75 square mile area ½ mile west of NV318.

#### 9.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, PRESTON

**Table 11 Demographics, Preston, Nevada**

Subject	Preston 2010	Preston 2017	Nevada <sup>xxii</sup> 2010	Nevada 2017
Population	78 <sup>53</sup>	20 <sup>52</sup>	2,700,551 <sup>7</sup>	2,887,725 <sup>7</sup>
Median Age (years)	14.0 <sup>53</sup>	XX <sup>52</sup>	35.9 <sup>7</sup>	37.7 <sup>7</sup>
16 Years and Older	33 <sup>53</sup>	20 <sup>52</sup>	1,976,219 <sup>7</sup>	670,002 <sup>7</sup>
65 Years and Older	0	0 <sup>52</sup>	303,039 <sup>7</sup>	420,330 <sup>7</sup>
Percent Minority	0% <sup>53</sup>	0 <sup>^</sup>	27.4% <sup>7</sup>	45.0% <sup>7</sup>
Average Household Size	2.80 <sup>55</sup>	XX	2.72 <sup>29</sup>	2.65 <sup>1</sup>
Disability Status		XX	47.4% <sup>30</sup>	10.03% <sup>16</sup>
Unemployment	XX	XX	8% <sup>2</sup>	12.7% <sup>16</sup>
Persons without Health Insurance under 65 years		XX	14% <sup>28</sup>	14.0% <sup>16</sup>
Poverty Rate		XX	13.3% <sup>30</sup>	11.9 <sup>16</sup>
Per Capita Income	\$16,005 <sup>54</sup>	XX	\$28,450 <sup>28</sup>	\$27,589 <sup>16</sup>
High School Graduate or Higher	100% <sup>56</sup>	XX	23.8% <sup>30</sup>	84.03% <sup>7</sup>
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	XX	XX	5.8% <sup>30</sup>	21.8% <sup>7</sup>
Median Household Income	XX	XX	\$36,167 <sup>28</sup>	\$55,434 <sup>16</sup>

XX Not available due to population size

### **9.1.2 ECONOMY, PRESTON**

Preston's economy is based on agriculture and ranching.

### **9.1.3 NATURAL RESOURCES, PRESTON**

Preston has 772 active mining claims including: Gold, silver, copper, magnesite, iron, mercury, fluorine, tungsten and lead.

### **9.1.4 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, PRESTON**

#### **Preston Public Schools**

The Preston public school system used to serve children in grades K-5<sup>th</sup>. This school system has closed and all students living in Preston currently attend the nearby Lund K-12 School.

### **9.1.5 GOALS, PRESTON**

Preston Goals are included in White Pine County Goals.

## **10 CHERRY CREEK**

### **10.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY**

Cherry Creek is a historic mining town located in northern White Pine County, in northeastern Nevada. It is a census county division, with a population at the 2010 census of 72. Cherry Creek is located 52 miles north of Ely on US 93. Median Household Income is \$26,771 in 2016. The land area of the census county area of Cherry Creek is 2436.4 square miles, but the population lives in a .07 square mile area approximately 8.15 miles west of US 93.

Gold was discovered in 1861 by a group of soldiers, and the district was organized in 1863. Ores rich in silver, gold and lead were mined on a fairly large scale from 1872 to 1883. The principal mines during this early period were the Teacup, Star, Exchequer and Cherry Creek. In the late 1880's a decline began, culminating in a virtual shutdown in 1893. By 1895, however, the district had revived, and the mines continued to produce on a small scale. Estimates of the early production range from \$6 to \$20 million in combined metals, but the amount of gold has not been determined. From 1902 through 1959 the district produced 36,197 ounces of gold. From 1952 through 1959 it produced considerable tungsten from scheelite deposits.

Since the 1940s, the community has slowly declined in size, although mine leaseholders have always been active in the district, and occasional mining activity has taken place. Total production for the district since 1872 has been estimated at roughly 20 million





dollars. Throughout the 2000s, the "Barrel Saloon" a local business, remained open; however, it closed in July 2010. Many historic structures, including a museum, an early one-room schoolhouse, and the Cherry Creek Barrel Saloon, still stand among more modern buildings. 140 years later Cherry Creek still surviving with a population of 72.

## **11 ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE**

### **11.1 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY**

The Ely Shoshone Indian Reservation is an Indian reservation for the Ely Shoshone Tribe of Nevada, Shoshone people, located near the south side of the city of Ely in south-central White Pine County, Nevada. The reservation is made up of three separate land areas. "The Canyon" consists of 10 acres and was acquired through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. In 1973 the tribe leased 11 acres in "the Terrace" a subdivision of Ely, later purchased in 1992. Another 90 acres on the southern edge of Ely was received in 1977.

The reservation is small, with a membership of about 500 people. The tribe is managed by a Tribal council as well as its own court system. The Ely Shoshone Tribe and the Yerington Paiute Tribe were the first two tribes in Nevada to sign marijuana compacts with the state, now today on tribal land is a truck stop and convenience store, as well as cannabis dispensary opening in October 2018. An annual Powwow & Fandango hosted by the tribe is a celebration of Native American heritage with traditional music and dancing. A multiple of games, food, and crafts rounds out the event. On the reservation is also a textile business.

#### **11.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE**

The Ely Shoshone Tribe reports a membership of about 500 with approximately 180 that live on the reservation.

#### **11.1.2 NATURAL RESOURCES, ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE**

The Shoshone Tribe is located in close proximity to Ely Nevada and thus would share the same natural resources.

#### **11.1.3 LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ELY SHOSHONE INDIAN RESERVATION**

##### **Resources**

Access to Adult Sexual Abuse and Family Violence Resources, Legal, Investigation/Legislation/Advocacy, Preventing and Responding to Child Abduction, Preventing and Responding to computer Facilitated Crimes and Child Sexual Exploitation Preventing and Responding to Child Abuse. The Ely Shoshone Tribe offers its members classes in the native language and instruction in traditional games and skills. It has a preschool, a clinic with a physician's assistant on staff, law enforcement officers and a court system, an environmental protection program and a social services department. A language preservation program is

taught twice a week and there is a youth intervention recreation program that includes both cultural and sports activities. The tribe also offers higher education scholarships for four-year colleges and adult vocational training.

### **Health**

Ely Shoshone Tribe is a Medical Group that has only one practice medical office located in Ely Nevada. There are 2 health care providers, specializing in Nurse Practitioner, being reported as members of the medical group. Medical taxonomies which are covered by Ely Shoshone Tribe include Obstetrics & Gynecology and Family Medicine.

#### **11.1.4 ECONOMY, ELY SHOSHONE INDIAN RESERVATION**

##### **Silver Sage Travel Center**

The Silver Sage Travel Center is a one-stop destination for travelers. Owned by the Ely Shoshone Tribe, the Travel Center offers gasoline and diesel – with a tribal discount on fuel. Other features include a convenience store, hot showers and smoke shop.

##### **Restaurant**

The Silver Sage Grill offers a tasty menu of burgers, sandwiches, hot wings, fries and hot dogs. The restaurant offers daily student specials and is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

##### **Shoshone Cloth Industries**

Textile business operating providing tribe specific cloth.

##### **Shoshone Powwow & Fandango**

The Ely Shoshone Powwow & Fandango includes a celebration of Native American heritage with traditional dancing and music. There will be Gourd dancers, tournaments of Hand Games, Archery, Corn Hole, Horseshoes and Volleyball. Other activities include a parade, BBQ, craft and food booths, a raffle, fun run walk, veteran's recognition, bounce house, Karaoke, and much more! There's something to do for all ages, so bring the entire family.

##### **Tsaa Nesunwka**

Dispensary (Shoshone meaning feel good) is Nevada's first Northeastern medical and recreational dispensary located on the Ely Shoshone Reservation.

#### **11.1.5 GOALS, ELY SHOSHONE INDIAN RESERVATION**

The Ely Shoshone Tribe will work with the County priorities to develop a strong Tourism/Recreation Economy plan.



## 12 PRIORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Table 12 on following next page summarizes an array of projects with broader economic development implications for the County. The list includes potential new investment, extending across the County. The current list does not reflect any prioritization of projects. In practical terms, the identified projects will compete for funding from a broad array of sources. Any prioritization should be based upon the following framework elements:

- Initial projects should benefit as large of a portion of the County as possible, and correlate with long-term County-wide economic diversification efforts.
- Initial projects that build on local strengths including renewable energies, existing businesses, natural beauty and outdoor activities, healthcare and education along with major investments in critical infrastructure systems.
- It will be critical for leadership groups across the County to build consensus around these core programs.
- Investments in attractions and tourism generating facilities can be appropriate if the project has realistic potential to attract visitors from outside the County/region.

**Table 12. Priority Economic Development Projects**

Location of Project	Project Listing and Descriptions
White Pine County	<p>Address housing issues to attract permanent residents, new businesses and visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh the existing needs assessment for housing</li> <li>• Identify steps for governing bodies and others to encourage housing development</li> <li>• Identify available land for housing</li> <li>• Create a plan to attract developers and build identified housing units</li> <li>• Discuss with local mines how we can develop a beautiful town site</li> <li>• Develop marketing plan to make the County a place mining employees call home</li> <li>• Establish town site 40 to 50 miles west of Ely to provide housing for mine employees</li> <li>• Work with local colleges to implement trades certification programs</li> </ul>
	<p>Address outdated infrastructure to encourage economic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop options to deploy broadband to government, homes &amp; businesses countywide</li> <li>• Maintain and update needed road infrastructure throughout the County</li> <li>• Work with the County's GIDs to upgrade and expand water/sewer systems</li> <li>• Upgrade/maintain/expand existing &amp; add new County facilities to meet program needs</li> <li>• Work with the State to prioritize repair of the Cave Lake State Park dam</li> <li>• Work with Tourism &amp; Recreation to expand the Bristlecone Convention Center</li> </ul>
	<p>Make White Pine County more affordable and attractive to current and future businesses and residents by reducing energy costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify options to bring natural gas into the County</li> <li>• Evaluate federal, state and local incentives available for potential natural gas providers</li> </ul>
	<p>Work with economic development agencies to attract new businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan that targets businesses compatible with County's economic base</li> <li>• Identify ways to increase the number of hotel rooms &amp; development of RV parks</li> <li>• Investigate effective alternatives for diversifying the economy</li> </ul>
	<p>Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to increase our tourism economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Tourism &amp; Recreation to develop year-round outdoor activity plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hiking, biking, equestrian and OHV trails</li> <li>-Parks and camping</li> <li>-Water sports including fishing, kayaking, swimming and others</li> <li>-Promotion of the County's heritage and historical sites</li> <li>-Astronomy and the County's dark sky opportunities</li> <li>-Hunting opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop marketing materials that can be shared via electronic media</li> <li>• Partner with other agencies to expand joint opportunities</li> <li>• Deploy interactive kiosks in County parks engaging visitors to entice them to stay longer</li> </ul>



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

### White Pine County

Assist the City of Ely in conjunction with the Main Street America Program to revitalize their downtown area to assist with attracting new businesses and encouraging tourists to stop and visit:

- Encourage City efforts dealing with absentee landlords and options for older buildings
- Work with Ely Main Street Board of Directors on their plans as possible

Work with School District on a comprehensive education plan that includes:

- Attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers
- Identification of employment gaps in White Pine County
- Partnering with trade schools to fill those gaps
- Updating K-12 buildings and mitigation of old, unused school buildings

Develop a workforce plan that will meet current needs throughout the County and allow for expansion as our communities grow:

- Create a needs assessment
- Partner with agencies to prepare an effective workforce development program
- Work with Great Basin College to establish more programs for trade occupations

Maintain and expand efforts to secure water rights in White Pine County which are essential to community growth and economic development:

- Ensure there is adequate water for current County needs and future growth
- Develop new and maintain existing relationships that address ongoing water challenges
- Monitor Southern Nevada Water Authority's actions in relation to County water rights
- Maintain awareness of any attempt to change Nevada's existing water laws
- Develop public awareness campaign to keep citizens informed and involved

Develop a specific plan to utilize and enhance our current successful partnerships with federal and state agencies to promote White Pine County and enhance our economy.

Develop an expansion plan for the White Pine County Airport to provide more economic opportunity for White Pine County including:

- Infrastructure expansion ideas as well as specifics on maintenance of current assets
- Creative new uses for the airport and expanded hangar services
- Scheduled flight services
- Attracting airport related businesses such as a car rental service

To provide better options for economic development, maintain a county wide transportation plan that includes:

- A current asset mapping
- Options to bring the I-11 Corridor through White Pine County
- Renovation of the rail system from Ely north
- Ideas to obtain bus service to and from Ely

Create a comprehensive broadband plan for White Pine County as this is essential for any potential business growth. The plan should include:

- An analysis of underserved or unserved areas of the County
- Creation of a scalable network solution throughout the County
- Preference to fiber based solutions
- Identification of federal, state and local resources to assist with project
- Evaluation of possible incentives to attract broadband companies



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Ely	Develop and implement a citywide broadband plan
	<p>Downtown Beautification Project through the Main Street Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify sites along main street that are available for use</li> <li>• Identify sites that are available for development/redevelopment</li> </ul>
McGill	Develop and improve community infrastructure
	<p>Develop and improve community infrastructure to provide safe, healthy and sanitary conditions which will attract both new businesses and residents. Planning should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade and expansion of water and sewer systems</li> <li>• Pursuit of housing options including single family, multi-family and low-income</li> <li>• Housing and/or apartments for seniors</li> <li>• Addressing blighted homes and absentee landlords</li> <li>• Reduction/elimination of invasive weed species</li> <li>• Evaluation of and upgrade to sidewalks, curbs, gutters and drainage systems</li> </ul>
	<p>Maintain and develop the parks and natural resources in and near McGill including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on the McGill Parks Master Plan</li> <li>• Maintain and continue to upgrade the McGill pool</li> <li>• Clean up and develop Bassett Lake</li> <li>• Identify and evaluate alternate resources to provide water to McGill</li> </ul>
	<p>Work on expanding and diversifying the economy in McGill through promotional efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote McGill through various organizations and electronic media</li> <li>• Explore benefits of Main Street America Program to make McGill more attractive</li> </ul>
	Develop a plan to provide broadband options throughout the Town, including both homes and businesses, to attract and retain new businesses and the employees needed to run them
	Expand railroad to provide service from Currie to McGill to Ely improving commercial transportation options
Lund	<p>Create a plan to develop and/or improve infrastructure to make Lund a more attractive place for businesses and residents to relocate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop bike paths, walking paths and sidewalks</li> <li>• Improve roads working with the State, County and Regional Transportation Commission</li> <li>• Upgrade and/or increase lighting throughout the community</li> </ul>
	<p>Improve various items to spur economic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with State &amp; County to slowing traffic in town to increase safety &amp; tourist stops</li> <li>• Develop plan to address housing shortage for employees needed for new business</li> <li>• Eliminate blighted homes/properties to improve overall appearance of community</li> <li>• Continue to work on and improve available emergency services</li> </ul>
	<p>Improve local area attractions to increase tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade playgrounds/parks providing enhanced outdoor spaces for residents &amp; tourists</li> <li>• Move museum to community center providing better access &amp; exposure to visitors</li> </ul>



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Ruth	Develop a plan to improve infrastructure necessary for residents and new business development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of a long-term stable water source</li> <li>• Improve curbs, gutters and sidewalks</li> <li>• Upgrade existing streetlights for a better-lit, more energy efficient community</li> </ul>
	Encourage more tourism through availability of recreational activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade parks to include playgrounds, gazebos, restrooms, outdoor grills, etc.</li> <li>• Develop community activities for all ages</li> </ul>
	Expand and diversify economy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracting a small grocery store, mini-mart or gas station</li> <li>• Attract broadband provider for affordable residential/commercial internet service</li> <li>• Correct blighted properties to make the community more attractive to visit and live in</li> <li>• Encourage expansion of the Nevada Northern Railroad to the Ruth Depot</li> <li>• Celebrate heritage through continued expansion of the Ruth Memorial Mining Park</li> </ul>
Baker	Secure and/or improve necessary infrastructure to grow the community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand water &amp; sewer services in &amp; around Baker to provide for new residential areas</li> <li>• Maintain vigilance regarding outside entities encroaching on Baker's water resources</li> </ul>
	Continue to grow the tourist economy through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of pedestrian pathways, hiking trails and bike routes</li> <li>• Promotion of various community events unique to Baker</li> </ul>
Preston and the Ely Shoshone Indian Reservation	Develop a plan to obtain broadband services at affordable rates for residences and businesses
	Improve infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curbs, gutters, drainage systems</li> <li>• Parks and community areas</li> <li>• Highways and roads</li> </ul>
	Participate in development of a county wide transportation plan
	Tourism/Marketing Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create brochures that identify unique attractions and events</li> <li>• Create and/or improve an online/social media presence that promotes visitors</li> </ul>
	Be a part of the comprehensive education planning process for schools



**13 COMMON GOALS AND ADDITIONAL PLANS**

**Table 13 Common Goals**

Goal	Objectives	Actions	Timeframe
Develop community plan to address housing needs to provide housing including addressing blighted properties	Encourage developers to begin housing projects in all areas of White Pine County including single and multifamily units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Refresh the existing needs assessment for housing</li> <li>•Identify steps for governing bodies and others to encourage housing development</li> <li>•Identify available land for housing</li> </ul>	Assign committee to start on this by June 30, 2021
	Increase available builders in White Pine County to meet the construction and remodeling needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Create a plan to recruit builders to the County</li> <li>•Train builders from residents creating a local construction workforce</li> <li>•Work with local colleges to implement trades certification program</li> </ul>	
	Make White Pine County a place that the mining employees want to make a permanent home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Survey mine employees to discover what would make them want to move to White Pine County</li> <li>•Develop a marketing plan directed at mining employees</li> </ul>	
	Establish town site 40-50 miles west of Ely to provide housing for mine employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Identify possible location and costs for required infrastructure</li> <li>•Discuss with local mines how we can develop a beautiful town site</li> </ul>	
	Reduce and eliminate the blighted properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Work with property owners to improve properties</li> <li>•Develop legal incentives to encourage absentee landlords and owners of vacant buildings to maintain them</li> <li>•Work with District Attorney's Office and Building Department as necessary to proceed with legal nuisance abatement process</li> </ul>	
Address outdated infrastructure and provide infrastructure that will enable economic development and community growth	Deploy affordable residential and commercial broadband throughout the County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•An analysis of underserved or unserved areas of the County</li> <li>•Creation of a scalable network solution throughout the County</li> <li>•Identification of federal, state and local resources to assist with project</li> <li>•Evaluation of possible incentives to attract broadband companies</li> </ul>	Assign committee(s) to start on this by June 30, 2021



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Address outdated infrastructure and provide infrastructure that will enable economic development and community growth (continued)	Maintain/update/enhance needed transportation infrastructure throughout the County to address needs of potential new businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a current asset mapping</li> <li>• Maintain and update needed road infrastructure throughout the County</li> <li>• Explore options to bring the I-11 Corridor through White Pine County</li> <li>• Renovation of the rail system from Ely north</li> <li>• Identify and pursue ideas to obtain bus service to and from Ely</li> <li>• Restore scheduled flight services to the White Pine County Airport</li> </ul>	
	Upgrade and expand existing water and sewer systems throughout the County to provide for business expansion and community growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the County's GIDs and the City of Ely to upgrade and expand water/sewer systems</li> <li>• Identify federal, state and local funds that can be utilized for the upgrades/expansions</li> </ul>	
	Upgrade/maintain/expand existing & add new County facilities to meet program needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform a needs assessment of program needs throughout the County</li> <li>Evaluate each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovation of the County's historic courthouse</li> <li>• Construction of a new youth or community recreation center</li> <li>• Add an ice-skating park to the front of the aquatic center</li> <li>• Utilize old annex area to provide community amphitheater with parking</li> <li>• Work through a public private partnership or other mechanism to develop and construct an assisted living center</li> <li>• Add parks to beautify the County and attract tourists as well as new residents</li> <li>• Continue developing facilities at the White Pine County Fairgrounds</li> <li>• Expansion of the Bristlecone Convention Center</li> <li>• Repair of the Cave Lake State Park dam</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	Identify ways for lower-cost energy options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify options to bring natural gas into the County</li> <li>• Evaluate federal, state and local incentives available for potential natural gas providers</li> </ul>	



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Diversify the White Pine County economy	Work with economic development agencies to identify and recruit new businesses	Evaluate and pursue each of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Development of the County's renewable energy resources including solar, wind and pumped storage</li> <li>•Up and downstream manufacturing related to the hemp farm</li> <li>•Other small manufacturing businesses</li> <li>•Increase the number of hotel rooms in the County</li> <li>•Development of more RV parks</li> <li>•Other businesses consistent with White Pine County values that will diversify the economy</li> </ul>	Assign committee to start on this by June 30, 2021
	Identify ways to assist businesses to relocate to White Pine County	Evaluate and provide incentives (federal, state and local) that can be used to assist businesses with relocation, construction and other needs to become successful in White Pine County	
Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation/tourism plan to expand outdoor recreation accessibility and economic impact by developing outdoor businesses, services and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Develop a regionalized trail head and mapping system</li> <li>•Develop a non-motorized trail expansion to include various levels of trail</li> <li>•Develop a year-round outdoor activities opportunities marketing plan</li> <li>•Increase the number of developed camping sites in the County</li> <li>•Develop itineraries of what to do in White Pine County</li> <li>•Develop a plan to connect the communities of White Pine County through the creation of recreational trails</li> <li>•Identify the personality within each area of the County and promote reasons to stop and visit each of them</li> <li>•Link together various recreational events within the County to promote extended visits</li> </ul>	Create a community team consisting of County, Tour and Recreation, State, Federal, Local and Tribal partners to develop a plan and timeline to implement objectives listed.	Assign team to start on this by June 30, 2021



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation/tourism plan to expand outdoor recreation accessibility and economic impact by developing outdoor businesses, services and events (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Develop a plan to promote water sports</li> <li>•Promote historical attractions</li> <li>•Raise awareness of the White Pine County "dark skies" and astronomy opportunities</li> <li>•Partner to provide excellent hunting opportunities</li> </ul>		
Develop a comprehensive education plan for all county schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Attract and retain qualified teachers</li> <li>•Identify employment gaps</li> <li>•Work with other agencies to attract staff</li> <li>•Develop a plan to increase and strengthen trade skills</li> <li>•Partner with trade colleges</li> <li>•Develop a parent education program</li> <li>•Update the k-12 school buildings</li> <li>•Address unused school facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Develop a working group consisting of the White Pine County Schools Superintendent, members of the school board/trustees, principals, teachers, parents and community member to create a strategic plan to address the identified objectives.</li> <li>•Research federal, state, and private sector resources to aid in funding identify changes.</li> </ul>	Implement team no later than June 2021
Maintain and expand efforts to secure water rights in White Pine County which are essential to community growth and economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ensure there is adequate water for current County needs and future growth</li> <li>•Develop new and maintain existing relationships that address ongoing water challenges</li> <li>•Monitor Southern Nevada Water Authority's actions in relation to County water rights</li> <li>•Maintain awareness of any attempt to change Nevada's existing water laws</li> <li>•Develop public awareness campaign to keep citizens informed and involved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Continue with Resource Concepts Inc., Advocates for Community and Environment, the Water Advisory Committee and other agencies to maintain awareness of water issues</li> <li>•Develop web pages on County website to provide information to the public related to water issues</li> <li>•Monitor legislation in upcoming legislative sessions</li> </ul>	Implement by June 30, 2021

## 14 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Strategy Committee will measure the progress made toward achieving its prioritized projects by tracking the following metrics.

### A. Number of jobs created after implementation of the CEDS

- Overall job growth
- Job growth by sector

### B. Number and types of investment undertaken in the region

- Foreign direct investment (by sector)
- Number of new businesses
- Funding leveraged for economic development
- New funding identified to support economic development
- Grants and loans applications (number, nature, and amount applied for)
- Grants and loans secured (number, nature, amount awarded, and amount expended)

### C. Number of jobs retained in the region

- Wages and salaries (tracked by sector through DETR)
- Unemployment rate
- White Pine County share (employment and revenue) of sector by percentage in Nevada

### D. Amount of private sector investment in the region after implementation of the CEDS

- Business expansion (tracked by sector)
- New businesses (tracked by sector)
- Business recruitment (tracked by sector)
- Acreage identified for development/new business
- Acreage developed

### E. Changes in the economic environment of the region

- Identification, implementation, and evaluation of mechanisms/methods used for business retention/expansion, promoting new businesses, and recruiting businesses
- Number of MOAs/MOUs signed or other evidence of cooperation with State and regional economic development entities to promote regionalization (tracked by sector)
- Identification, implementation, and evaluation of cooperative efforts with State and regional economic development entities to promote sector regionalization
- High School graduation rate contrasted with the graduation rate prior to implementation of CEDS
- Workforce training programs available to unemployed/underemployed within White Pine County (number and nature by sector)
- Number of participants successfully completing/graduating from workforce training programs in White Pine County
- Number/percentage of workforce training program participants employed in County/State exports generated (sector, nature, and quantity)



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

### **F. Development of an Outdoor Recreation Economy/Tourism Plan**

- Number of unique visitors to county
- Increase in hotel stays, visitor registrations at state and national parks, museums, and events

### **G. Increase in Broadband service to communities**

- All communities will reach 25mbps up and 10 mbps down at a minimum

## 15 REFERENCES

### Appendix

- Appendix A SWOT Analysis and attendance list
- Appendix B Workshop Document from City of Ely Resiliency Planning Workshop 11-14-2019
- Appendix C White Pine County, Nevada Economic Profile, Governor's Office of Economic Development, 2019

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## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

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Ruth, ACS 2013- 2017 5-Year Population Estimate

[https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)



## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Ruth 2010 Census Demographic Profile

[https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

Ruth, Nevada ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates

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Ruth, Nevada Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics 2010 -2010 Demographic Profile

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

Ruth, Nevada Selected Economic Characteristics 2013-2017 ACS 5-year Estimates

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

Ruth, Nevada ACS Employment Status 2012-2017 5-Year Estimates

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

Ruth, Nevada Physical Housing characteristics for Occupied Housing Units 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

### McGill, Nevada

McGill, Nevada Profile of General Population and housing Characteristics 2010

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

McGill, Nevada ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates 2013 /2017 American Community Survey 5- Year

Estimates <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

McGill, Nevada Selected Economic Characteristics 2006-2010 ACS 5-Year Estimates

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

McGill, Nevada Educational Attainment 2006-2-10 ACS 5-Year Estimates

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

McGill, Nevada Occupancy Characteristics 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>Preston

### Preston, Nevada

ACS Demographics and Housing Estimates 2013-2017 American Survey 5-Year Estimates

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

2010 Census <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

ACS Employment Status 5-Year Estimates

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2010 Census, Educational Attainment

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

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### Silver Lion Farms

<https://silverlionfarms.com/campus-1>

### White Pine County Community Documents

White Pine County Public Lands Policy Plan Document 2018

<http://whitepinecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/3930/WCPublicLandsPolicyPlan2018>

Spring Valley Wind <https://patternenergy.com/learn/portfolio/spring-valley-wind>

White Pine County Health Data

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/whitepinecountynevada,NV/PST045219>



## White Pine County

<https://elynews.com/2019/07/26/great-basin-park-brings-big-economic-impact/> The Ely Times - Great Basin Park Bring Big Economic Impact, July 26, 2019

## White Pine County School District Superintendent

Adam Young WPCSD Superintendent [adam.young@wpcnvadmin.com](mailto:adam.young@wpcnvadmin.com) 775/293-0584-cell

### Endnotes

1 <file:///H:/Documents/H%20Drive/Projects%20by%20County%20%20and%20or%20City/White%20Pine%20County/WPC%20Population%202017.pdf>

2 The Ely Times, Great Basin park Brings Big Economic Impact, July 25, 2019.

<sup>iii</sup> Census.gov 2010 [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

7 <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NV/PST045219>

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19 <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=2017%20census%20acs%20White%20Pine%20County%20Nevada%20population&g>

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## WHITE PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

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## APPENDIX A

### White Pine CEDS

# SWOT Analysis

Bristlecone Convention Center

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 7, 2019

### Strengths (Votes):

- Clean air and water (6)
- Rural lifestyle (11)
- Dark Skies (1)
- Family friendly
- Safe/ Low crime
- Nature
- Four seasons/ Climate
- Mill – future focused
- Community pride (1)
- Quality of life (1)
- Outdoor activities/Hunting/Trails/Wildlife viewing (6)
- Employment opportunities (3)
- Railroad (5)
- Increased publicity
- True Nevadans/ People (1)
- Youth
- Community involvement/ Excellent volunteerism (1)
- Heritage/ Diverse cultures/ Ethnic diversity/ History/ Historical resources (4)
- Cheap energy
- Unused top facilities (1)
- Remoteness
- Leadership
- Natural resources
- Three highways
- Middle of everywhere (1)
- Year-round community events
- Industry leaders
- Tourism (6)
- Freedom
- Great medical (3)
- Education/ Good technical, vocational
- College
- National and State parks (2)
- Lots of land (1)
- Many churches
- Great land stewards
- Great partnerships
- Good government and entity relationships
- Brothels
- Full-service community (1)
- Hemp farm (1)
- Dispensary
- Mining (1)
- Aquatic center
- NV Northern Railway
- WPC Golf Course



## White Pine CEDS

### Weaknesses (Votes):

- Low community involvement (6)
- Remoteness
- Housing – permanent and itinerant workers (6)
- Transportation (5)
- Education
  - Professional classes (1)
  - Trades training
  - Low star rating K-12 (8)
- Extreme land lock – Feds own 97% of WPC (1)
- Infrastructure – Broadband, water, sewer, roads (6)
- Seasonal tourism season (1)
- Negative attitudes
- Elected officials that haven't moved past 1970's (1)
- Low prioritization from State of NV – NDOT (1)
- Lack of day care for infants and toddlers
- Distance from commercial air service (3)
- Distance large scale shopping (1)
- Getting new employees without children to connect and engage in community
- Commuter workers
- Heavily dependent on metal prices
- Landfill capacity
- Social events – Arts and Culture
- No assisted living facility
- Shortage of employees (1)
- Lack of engagement by great basin college in community and training opportunities (1)
- Housing barriers (12)
- Lack of contractors (3)
- Adult day care
- Lack of good hospitalization
- No rehab center for seniors especially (1)
- Lack of medical specialists
- Small population/ services
- Lack of late-night restaurants
- Lack of fresh fruit and veggies (2)
- Competition for grocery store (2)
- Low voter turnout (1)
- No car rental agency (2)
- Weeds (1)
- Junk cars and tires (1)
- Lack of enforcement of ordinances (2)
- Lack of entrance signage (1)

## White Pine CEDS

### Opportunities (Votes):

- Tourism (10)
- Rail line (7)
- Outdoor lifestyle (9)
- Sense of community
- Ethnic diversity
- Highways (1)
- Lots of empty buildings
- Four seasons
- Lots of land
- National and State parks (3)
- Hospital/ Quality Doctors
- Small community
- Federal agencies/ care of public lands
- Airport (7)
- Know local politicians and families
- Need for housing/ Opportunity for builders (2)
- Opportunities for restaurants, Grocery stores (1)
- Aquatic center
- Education K-12
- Day Care
- Internet
- Green focus environmental (8)
- Develop more local retail
- Solar development "capitalize of sunshine"
- Volunteer fire department
- Foodie destination
- Food desert/ access to fresh fruit and veggies (1)
- Hydro power (1)
- Entrepreneurial opportunities (3)
- Easy access to services
- Remote
- Art
- Downtown (7)
- Development
- Train locals (3)
- Educations (Industrial occupations)
- Hemp farm
- UNR residency (stay in area) (1)
- Search and rescue
- Growing
- Flexibility in government



## White Pine CEDS

### Threats (Votes):

- Southern Nevada Water Authority (8)
- Housing (16)
- Aging infrastructure (2)
- Transportation (3)
- Lack of awareness
- Fear of change
- Environmental threats (2)
- Lack of trained workforce (7)
- Education system (9)
- Lack of hotel rooms
- Lack of available property (BLM)
- Extreme weather events
- Increase drug use addiction (1)
- Noise pollution
- Community events/gatherings (1)
- Activity children/ teens (1)
- Youth retention/ brain drain (1)
- High speed internet/cell service (4)
- Lack of enforcement codes
- Apathy
- Limited landfill hours/space (1)
- Online shopping, Amazon
- Low population
- Aging historic buildings (loss of culture) (1)
- Meteor
- Outdated regulations
- Most remote community
- Light pollution
- Metal prices
- Limited elderly services/ healthcare (1)

## White Pine CEDS

### Vision and Mission Statements:

#### Group #1:

- Engaged
- Prosperous/ thriving
- Healthy
- Expressive
- Well planned community
- Cooperation between city, county, state

*Ely will be a well-planned and engaged community with a thriving economy that expresses its cultural identity through its arts and events.*

#### Group #2:

- Economic diversity
- Engaged and well-rounded community
- Well-rounded means: indoor/outdoor recreation, unusual/diverse businesses, specialty stores
- "Disney vision": attractive community for folks that live here and visit here
- Window dressing
- Outdoor recreation capital of Nevada

*White Pine County is creating a community with a diverse economy and Elyvated quality of life for our citizens and visitors through focused collaboration and cooperation.*

#### Group #3:

- Premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts
- Number ONE school district in the state
- Quality housing at all price points
- State of the art infrastructure
- Vibrant downtown opportunities and growth

*As the premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts, Ely's vibrant downtown attracts all age groups. Our community is proud of our state-of-the-art infrastructure, quality housing at all price points and is home to the number one school district in the State. Welcome Home!*



## White Pine CEDS

### Group #4:

- Major transportation hub
- Thriving and diverse population using state of the art infrastructure
- Prosperous and stable economy and outstanding quality of life
- More businesses and shopping opportunities
- Continued growth – sustainable – all aspects – growth with respect of resources
- Providing a prosperous and sustainable economy by utilizing our thriving and diverse resources
- Center for creative expression
- Involve all community members

## APPENDIX B

### City of Ely – Community Resiliency Planning

#### **Water – (the event of loss of water supply or system failure)**

- Short Term – secure any remaining water in the storage tanks for fire suppression.
- Medium Term – Work with local contractors to haul potable water to determined distribution sites with the City of Ely.
- Long Term – Identify new sources and/or needed repairs to the system.

#### **Food – (in the event of loss of supply lines)**

- Short Term – Secure and ration existing food supplies at stores, food banks and other location.
- Medium Term – Work with agencies and shipper to get new food stores to the area.
- Long Term – Work with educational entities (Ag Extension) to grow and provide as much local produce as possible (gardens, livestock, natural sources).

#### **Economic – (in the event of loss of major employers or other financial crisis)**

- Short Term – Coordinate with local welfare programs to assess and fill needs
- Medium Term – Work with outside welfare agencies should the needs outstrip the community's immediate capabilities to assist with the needs.
- Long Term – diversify the local economic base to avoid extreme impacts from changes in certain sectors of the economy. Work on having broad and local educational opportunities to service the new diverse economic base.

#### **Housing – (in the event of a significant loss of the local house supply)**

- Short Term – Work with local schools, churches, and motels to house the displaced population.
- Medium Term – Work with national agencies (FEMA) to provide more permanent short term housing
- Long Term – Draw workers from the local education programs to begin to rebuild the housing stock.





# White Pine County, NV

*Nevada Governor's Office of*  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

*Empowering Success*

808 W. Nye Lane  
Carson City, Nevada 89703

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## Report Parameters

### 1 County

32033 White Pine County, NV

### Class of Worker

QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen geographical area.

## Economy Overview

### 9,400

#### Population (2019)

Population decreased by 632 over the last 5 years and is projected to decrease by 320 over the next 5 years.

### 4,555

#### Total Regional Employment

Jobs grew by 29 over the last 5 years and are projected to grow by 288 over the next 5 years.

### \$60.4K

#### Median Household Income (2017)

Median household income is \$2.7K above the national median household income of \$57.7K.

## Takeaways

- As of 2019 the region's population declined by 6.3% since 2014, falling by 632. Population is expected to decrease by 3.4% between 2019 and 2024, losing 320.
- From 2014 to 2019, jobs increased by 0.6% in White Pine County, NV from 4,526 to 4,555. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 7.3% by 6.7%. As the number of jobs increased, the labor force participation rate decreased from 58.5% to 57.7% between 2014 and 2019.
- Concerning educational attainment, 10.7% of White Pine County, NV residents possess a Bachelor's Degree (8.1% below the national average), and 9.0% hold an Associate's Degree (0.9% above the national average).
- The top three industries in 2019 are Metal Ore Mining, State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals, and Education and Hospitals (Local Government).

	Population (2019)	Labor Force (2019)	Jobs (2019)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	9,400	4,529	4,555	115.0	\$855.11M	\$1.14B	\$1.69B
Douglas County	48,676	23,603	22,501	123.4	\$3.83B	\$6.14B	\$6.03B
Clark County	2,271,656	1,137,788	1,105,888	109.0	\$120.75B	\$102.01B	\$108.23B
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	2,271,656	1,137,788	1,105,888	109.0	\$120.75B	\$102.01B	\$108.23B
Reno, NV	476,068	272,438	261,503	117.4	\$31.09B	\$27.74B	\$30.58B
United States	329,399,330	164,576,320	164,699,638	100.0	\$20.78T	\$0	\$8.91T

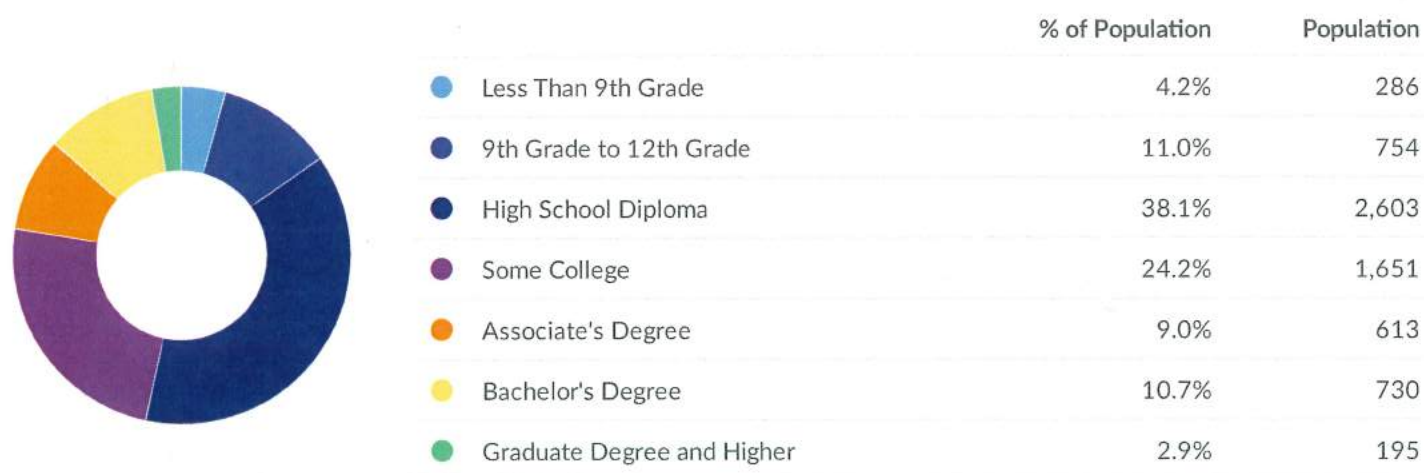


## 2019 Labor Force Breakdown



## Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, 10.7% of White Pine County, NV residents possess a Bachelor's Degree (8.1% below the national average), and 9.0% hold an Associate's Degree (0.9% above the national average).



## Historic & Projected Trends

### Population Trends

As of 2019 the region's population declined by 6.3% since 2014, falling by 632. Population is expected to decrease by 3.4% between 2019 and 2024, losing 320.

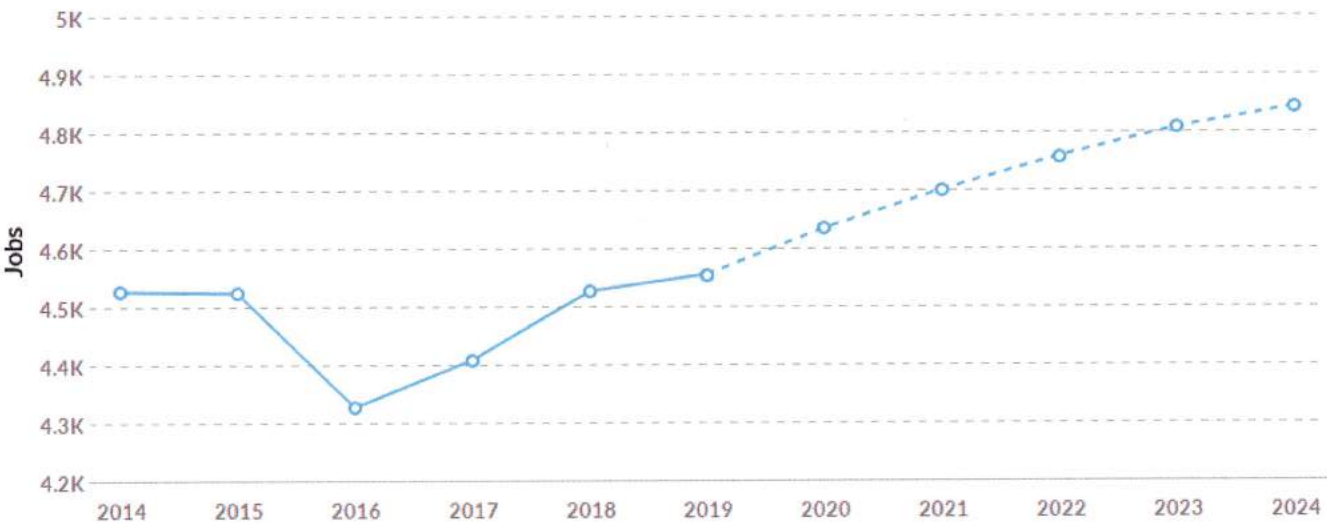


Timeframe	Population
2014	10,032
2015	9,858
2016	9,721
2017	9,599
2018	9,475
2019	9,400
2020	9,324
2021	9,254
2022	9,191
2023	9,133
2024	9,080



Job Trends

From 2014 to 2019, jobs increased by 0.6% in White Pine County, NV from 4,526 to 4,555. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 7.3% by 6.7%.



Timeframe	Jobs
2014	4,526
2015	4,523
2016	4,326
2017	4,408
2018	4,526
2019	4,555
2020	4,634
2021	4,700
2022	4,758
2023	4,807
2024	4,843

## Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2014	58.78%
2015	59.03%
2016	56.62%
2017	56.70%
2018	58.03%
January - July 2019	58.63%
August 2019	59.81%
September 2019	57.52%
October 2019	57.68%



## Unemployment Rate Trends

White Pine County, NV had an October 2019 unemployment rate of 2.78%, decreasing from 6.01% 5 years before.



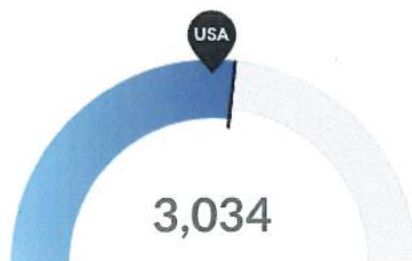
Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2014	6.01%
2015	5.30%
2016	4.58%
2017	4.01%
2018	3.70%
January - July 2019	3.29%
August 2019	3.15%
September 2019	2.68%
October 2019	2.78%

## Population Characteristics



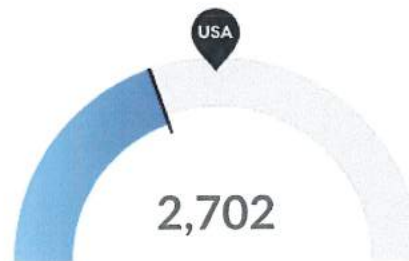
**Millennials**

White Pine County, NV has 2,117 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 1,948.



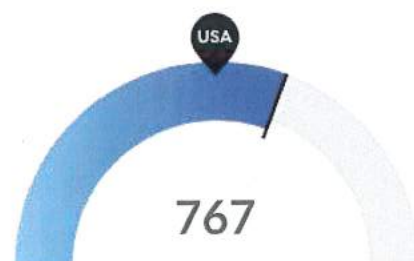
**Retiring Soon**

Retirement risk is high in White Pine County, NV. The national average for an area this size is 2,743 people 55 or older, while there are 3,034 here.



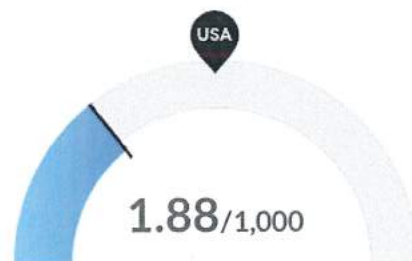
**Racial Diversity**

Racial diversity is low in White Pine County, NV. The national average for an area this size is 3,754 racially diverse people, while there are 2,702 here.



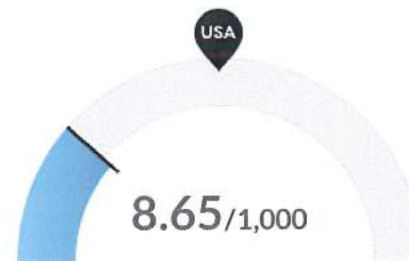
**Veterans**

White Pine County, NV has 767 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 559.



**Violent Crime**

White Pine County, NV has 1.88 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.87 per 1,000 people.



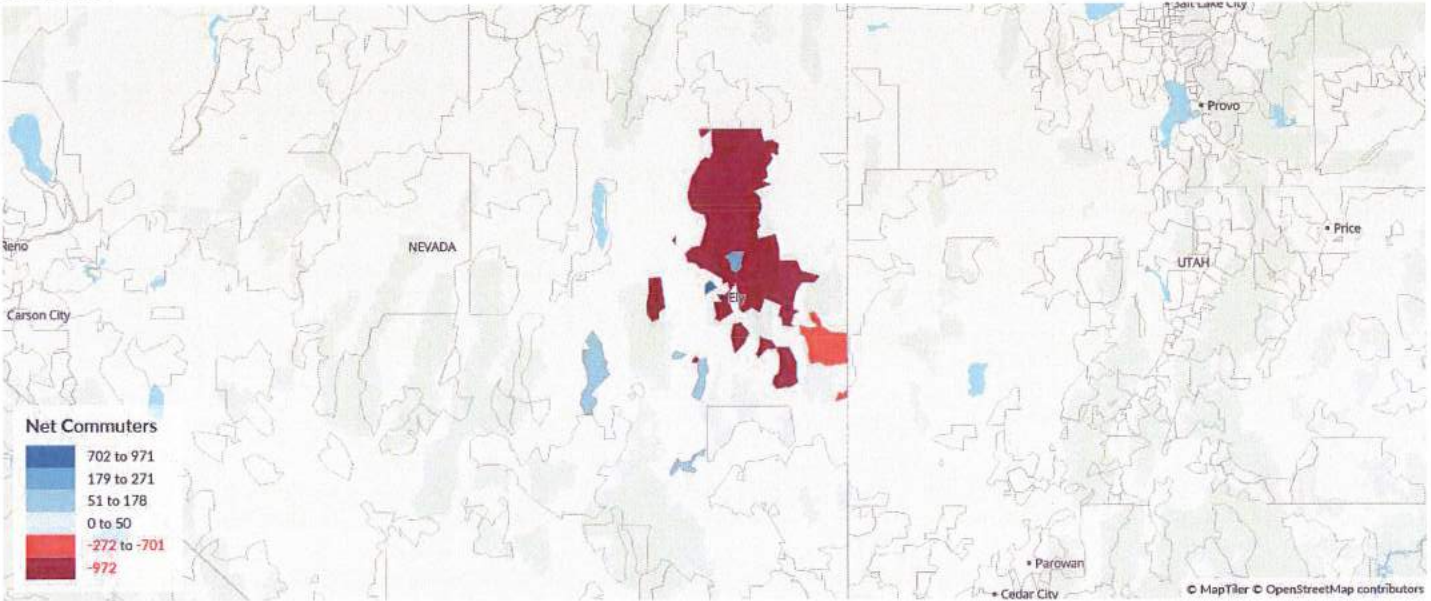
**Property Crime**

White Pine County, NV has 8.65 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 22.98 per 1,000 people.



## Place of Work vs Place of Residence

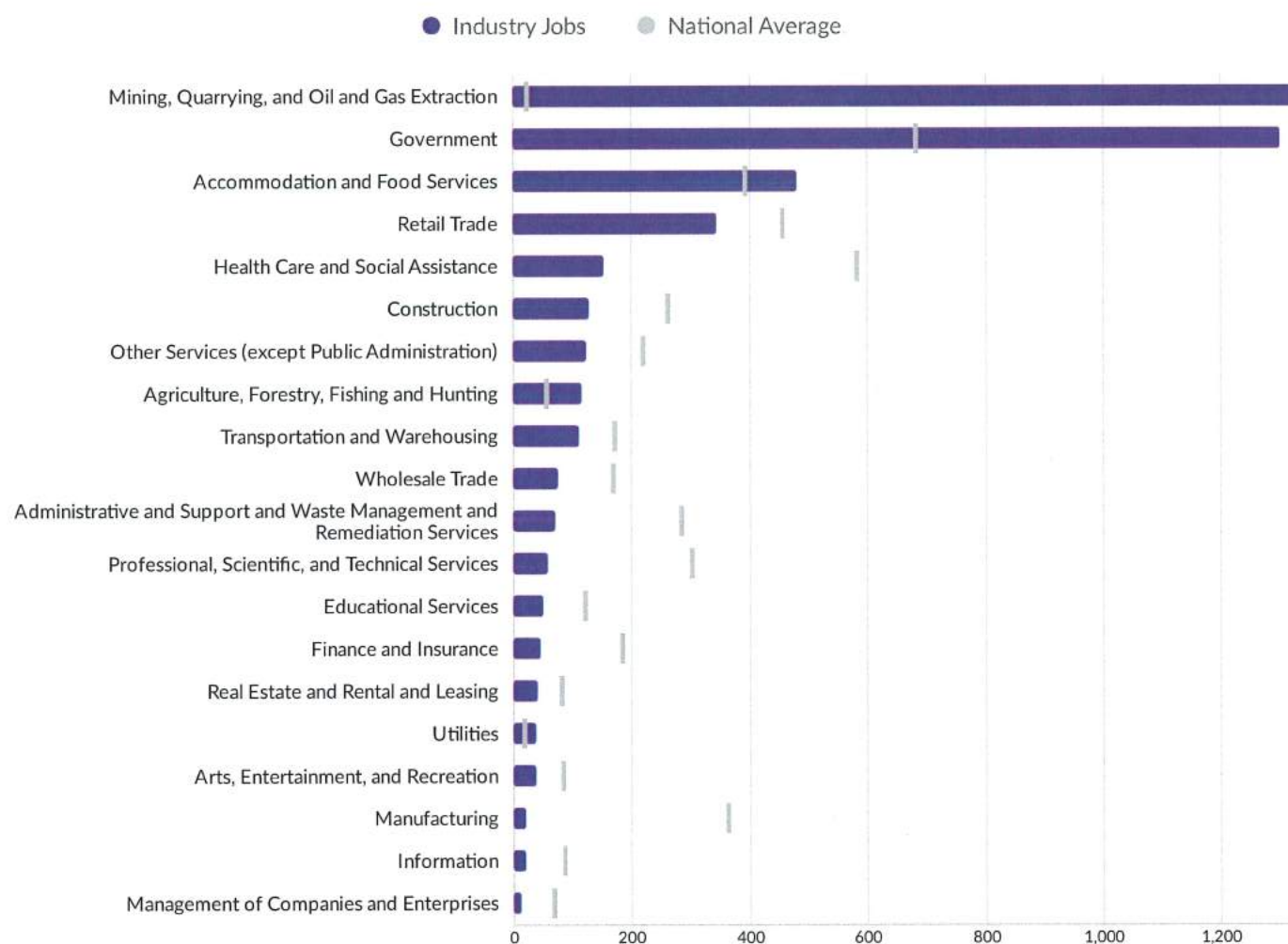
Understanding where talent in White Pine County, NV currently works compared to where talent lives can help you optimize site decisions.



Where Talent Works			Where Talent Lives		
ZIP	Name	2019 Employment	ZIP	Name	2019 Workers
89301	Ely, NV (in White Pine c...	3,233	89301	Ely, NV (in White Pine c...	4,205
89319	Ruth, NV (in White Pine...	716	89311	Baker, NV (in White Pin...	364
89318	Mc Gill, NV (in White Pi...	209	89315	Ely, NV (in White Pine c...	151
89315	Ely, NV (in White Pine c...	151	89318	Mc Gill, NV (in White Pi...	30
89314	Duckwater, NV (in Whit...	95	89314	Duckwater, NV (in Whit...	25

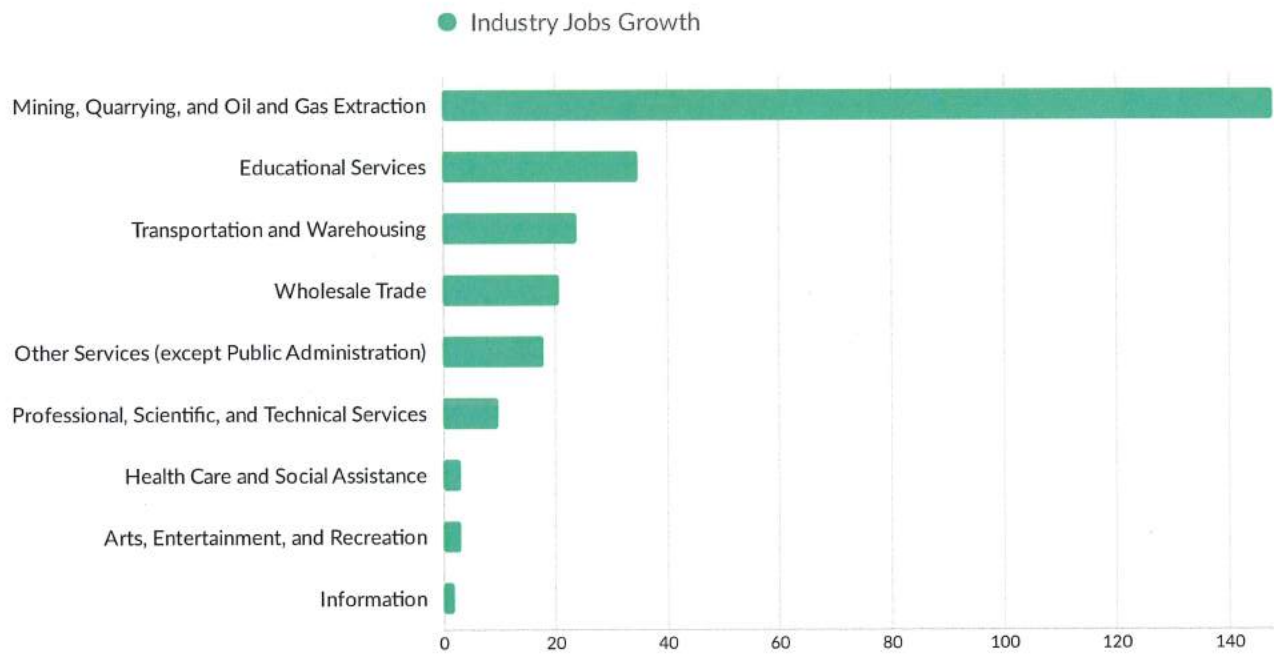
## Industry Characteristics

### Largest Industries

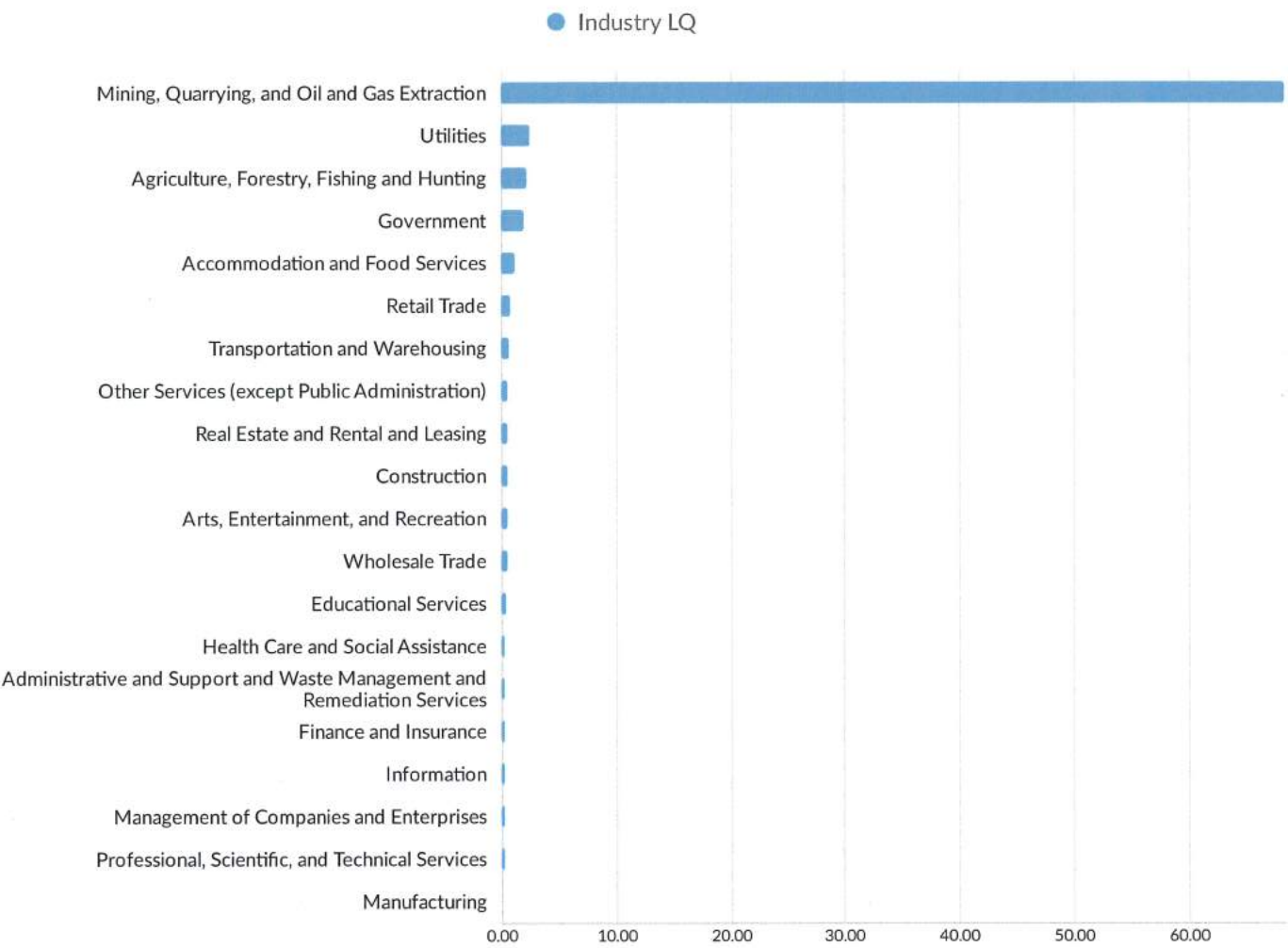




## Top Growing Industries

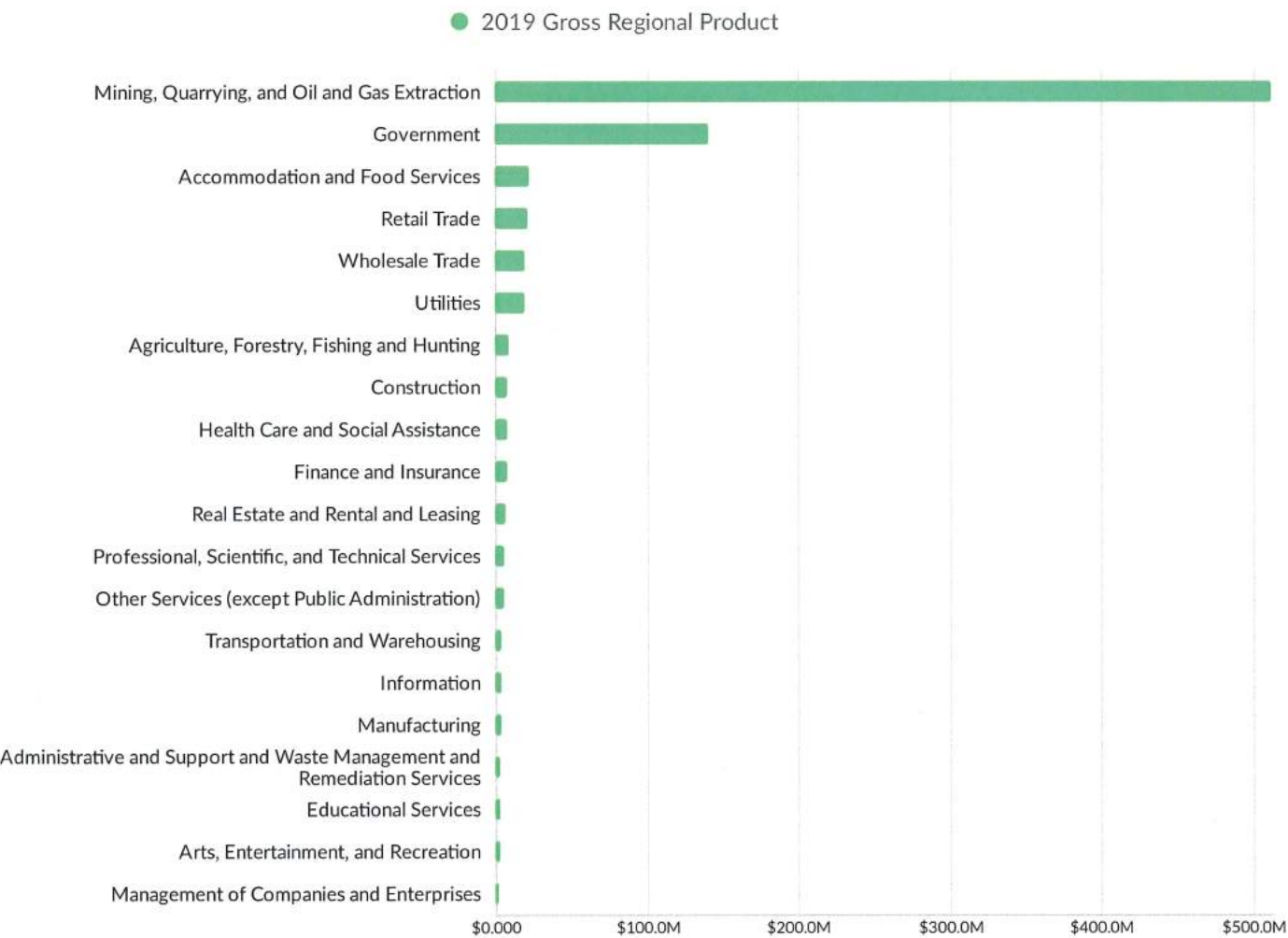


Top Industry LQ

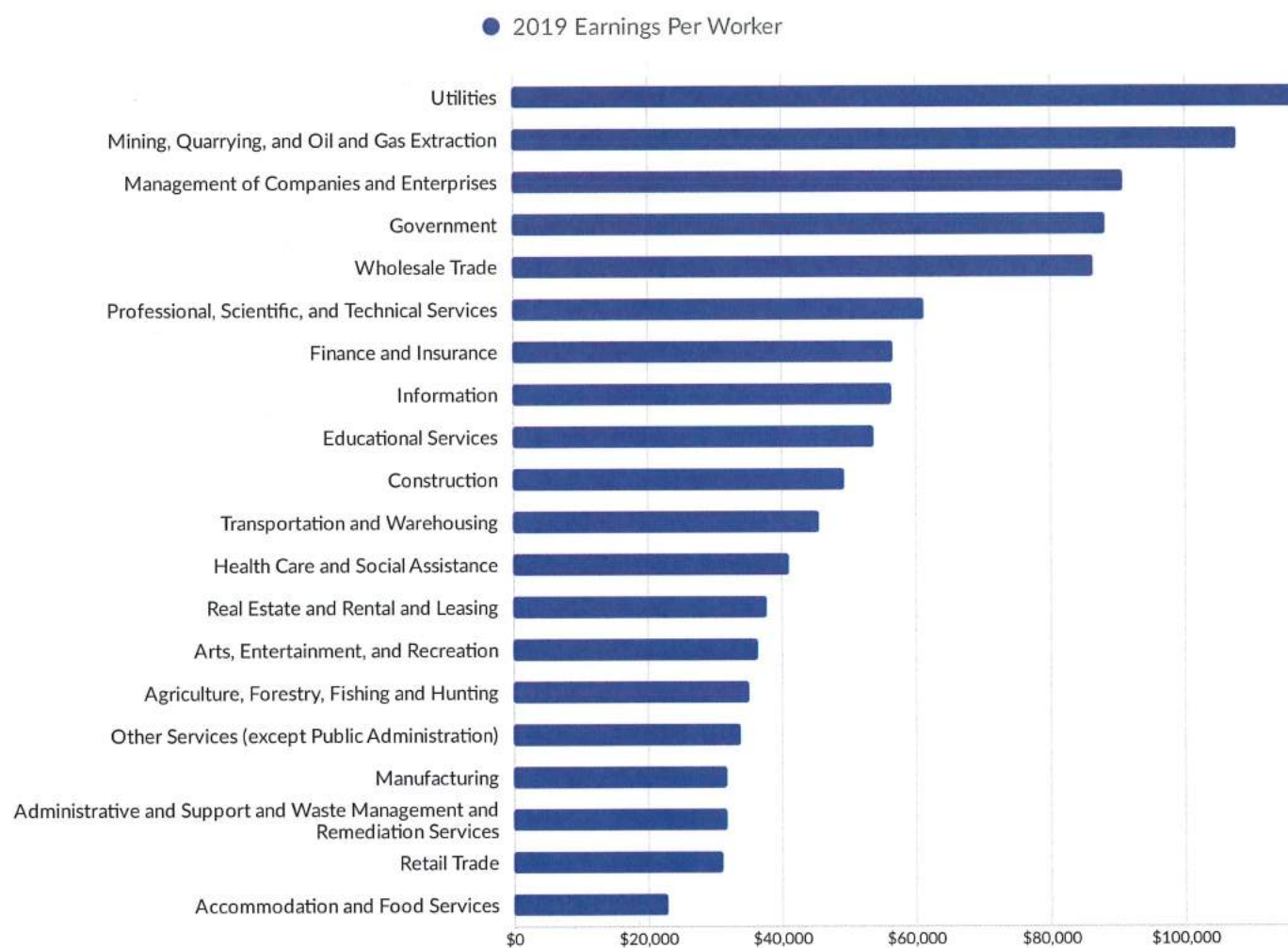




Top Industry GRP



## Top Industry Earnings

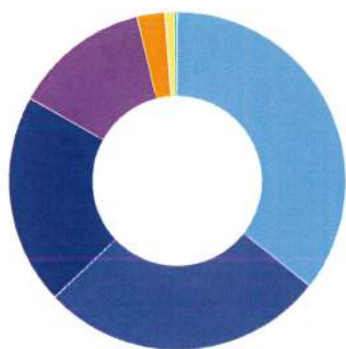




Industry	2014 Jobs	2019 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2019 LQ	2019 Earnings Per Worker	2019 GRP
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,175	1,323	148	+13%	68.34	\$107,872	\$511.64M
Government	1,416	1,301	-115	-8%	1.91	\$88,272	\$140.30M
Accommodation and Food Services	528	481	-47	-9%	1.23	\$22,757	\$22.32M
Retail Trade	358	346	-12	-3%	0.76	\$31,106	\$21.49M
Health Care and Social Assistance	151	154	3	+2%	0.27	\$41,051	\$8.14M
Construction	139	128	-11	-8%	0.50	\$49,158	\$8.27M
Other Services (except Public Administration)	105	123	18	+17%	0.57	\$33,641	\$5.83M
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	122	115	-7	-6%	2.16	\$35,065	\$9.18M
Transportation and Warehousing	88	112	24	+27%	0.66	\$45,564	\$4.15M
Wholesale Trade	55	76	21	+38%	0.46	\$86,471	\$19.56M
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	81	72	-9	-11%	0.25	\$31,668	\$3.33M
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	49	59	10	+20%	0.20	\$61,295	\$6.05M
Educational Services	16	51	35	+219%	0.43	\$53,795	\$3.07M
Finance and Insurance	53	45	-8	-15%	0.25	\$56,596	\$7.87M
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	46	40	-6	-13%	0.52	\$37,778	\$6.63M
Utilities	39	39	0	0%	2.50	\$116,490	\$19.55M
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	35	38	3	+9%	0.48	\$36,455	\$2.96M
Manufacturing	31	21	-10	-32%	0.06	\$31,696	\$3.59M
Information	17	19	2	+12%	0.23	\$56,465	\$3.77M
Management of Companies and Enterprises	23	13	-10	-43%	0.20	\$90,868	\$1.51M

## Business Characteristics

### Business Size



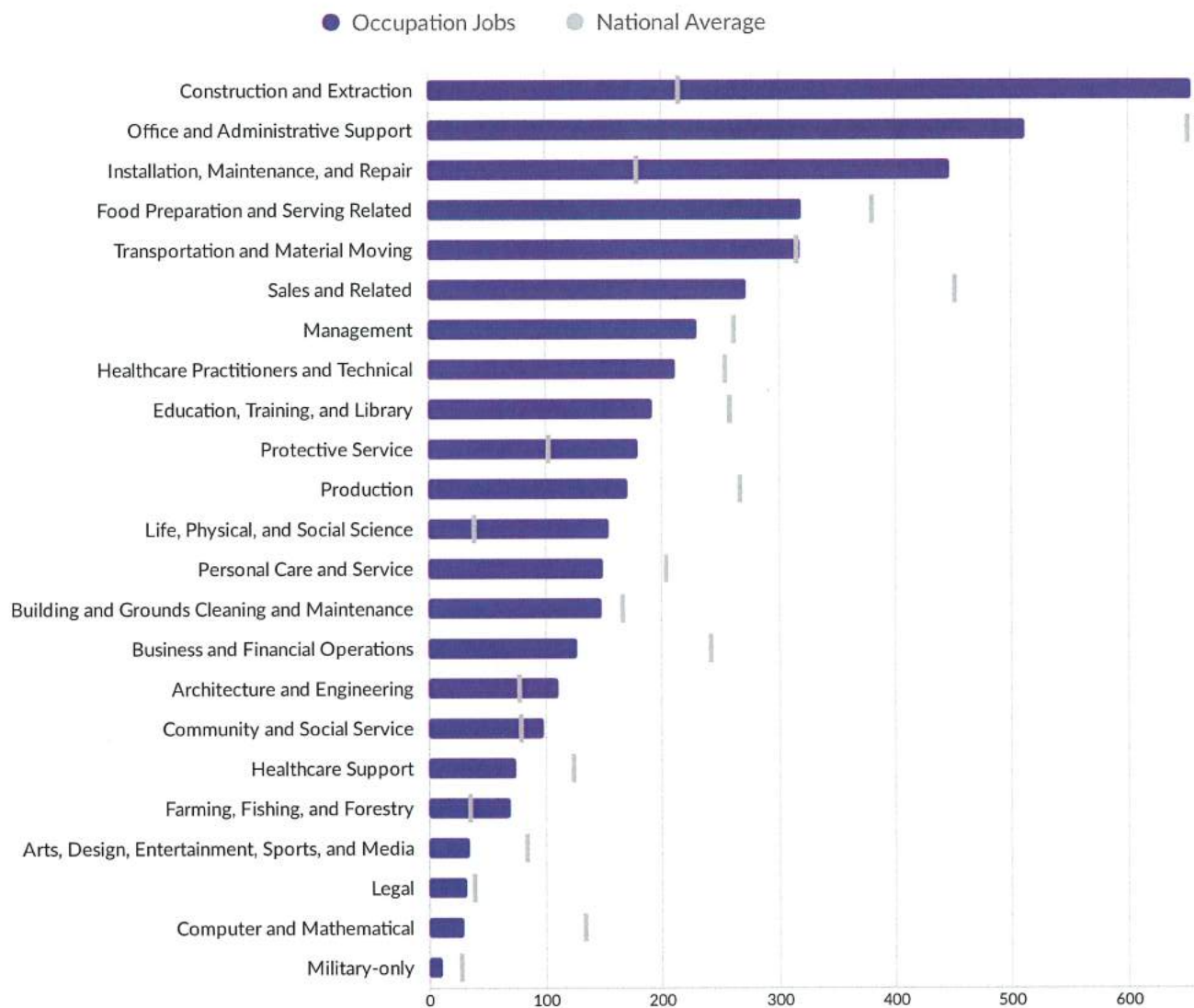
	Percentage	Business Count
1 to 4 employees	35.6%	120
5 to 9 employees	27.3%	92
10 to 19 employees	20.2%	68
20 to 49 employees	13.1%	44
50 to 99 employees	2.7%	9
100 to 249 employees	0.9%	3
500+ employees	0.3%	1

*\*Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Emsi to its customers as a convenience, and Emsi does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Emsi data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on the summary tab.*

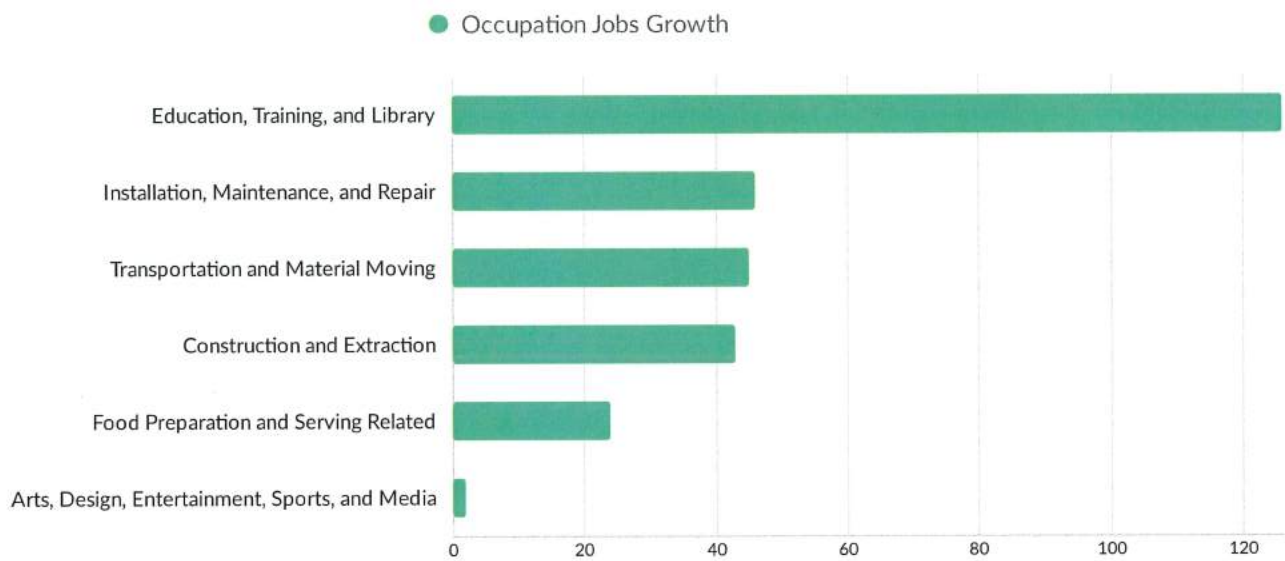


## Workforce Characteristics

### Largest Occupations

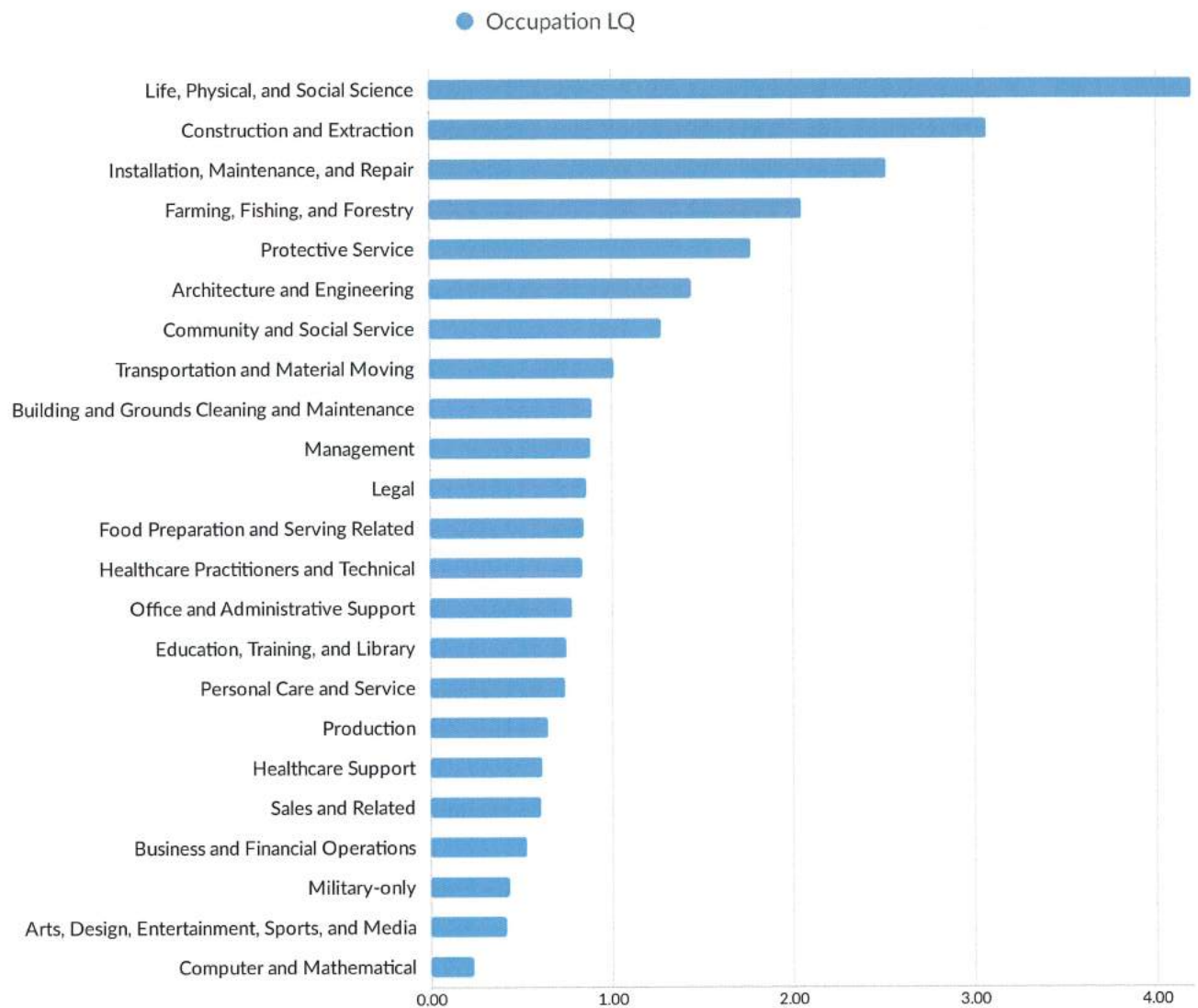


## Top Growing Occupations





## Top Occupation LQ

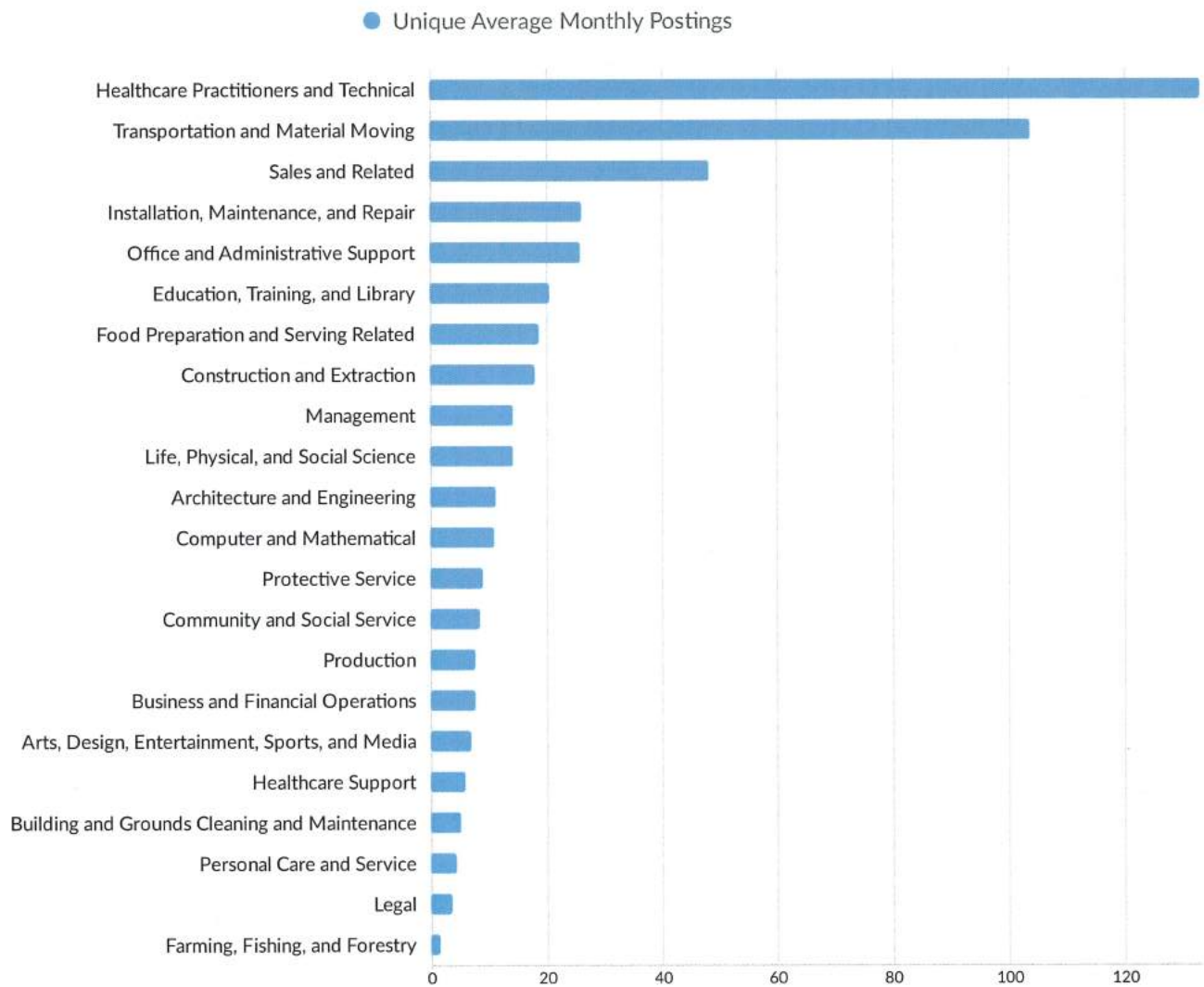


## Top Occupation Earnings





## Top Posted Occupations



Occupation	2014 Jobs	2019 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2019 LQ	2018 Median Hourly Earnings	Jan 2019 - Dec 2019 Unique Average Monthly Postings
Construction and Extraction	612	655	43	+7%	3.07	\$25.18	18
Office and Administrative Support	557	512	-45	-8%	0.79	\$15.74	26
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	401	447	46	+11%	2.52	\$26.33	26
Food Preparation and Serving Related	297	321	24	+8%	0.85	\$9.83	19
Transportation and Material Moving	274	319	45	+16%	1.02	\$21.10	104
Sales and Related	288	273	-15	-5%	0.61	\$12.05	48
Management	231	231	0	0%	0.88	\$37.53	14
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	294	212	-82	-28%	0.84	\$37.79	133
Education, Training, and Library	66	192	126	+191%	0.75	\$24.67	21
Protective Service	195	180	-15	-8%	1.77	\$24.36	9
Production	192	171	-21	-11%	0.64	\$21.28	8
Life, Physical, and Social Science	157	155	-2	-1%	4.20	\$28.77	14
Personal Care and Service	160	150	-10	-6%	0.74	\$10.74	4
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	164	148	-16	-10%	0.90	\$11.23	5
Business and Financial Operations	130	127	-3	-2%	0.53	\$28.60	8
Architecture and Engineering	120	111	-9	-8%	1.45	\$33.08	11
Community and Social Service	99	98	-1	-1%	1.28	\$23.86	8
Healthcare Support	103	75	-28	-27%	0.61	\$14.95	6



Occupation	2014 Jobs	2019 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2019 LQ	2018 Median Hourly Earnings	Jan 2019 - Dec 2019 Unique Average Monthly Postings
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	73	70	-3	-4%	2.05	\$13.41	2
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	32	34	2	+6%	0.42	\$19.83	7
Legal	32	32	0	0%	0.86	\$36.27	4
Computer and Mathematical	34	30	-4	-12%	0.23	\$32.73	11
Military-only	12	11	-1	-8%	0.43	\$19.53	0

## Educational Pipeline

Over the last 5 years, no schools in White Pine County, NV produced graduates.

**Note:** Graduates from Great Basin College campus in Ely, NV are counted as Elko, NV campus graduates.