

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Monday, November 16, 2020

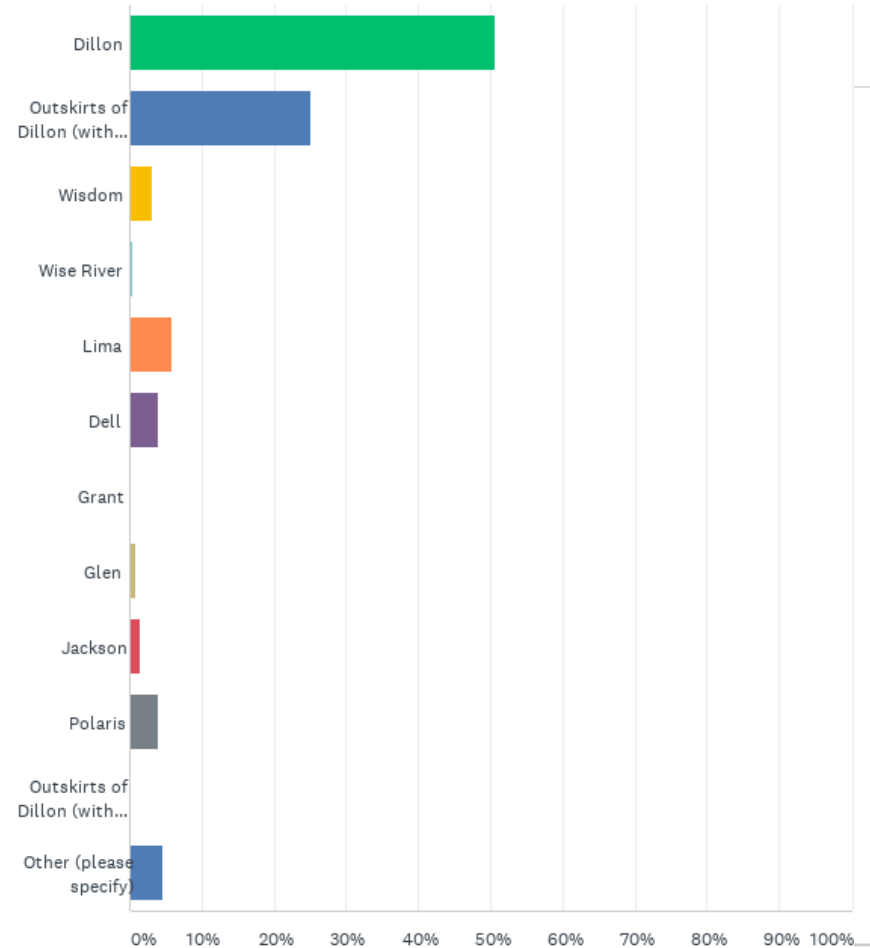
439

Total Responses

Complete Responses: 439

Q1: What area of the County do you reside in?

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



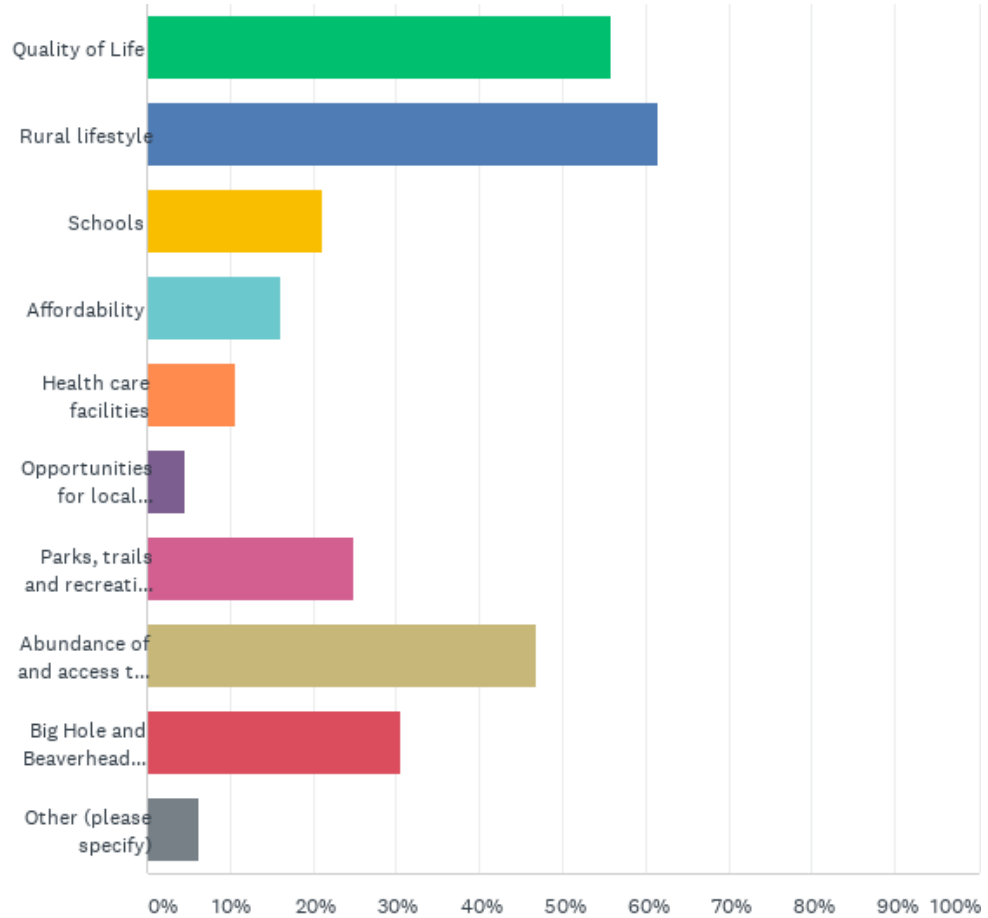
Q1: What area of the County do you reside in?

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Dillon	50.57%	222
Outskirts of Dillon (within 5 miles)	25.06%	110
Wisdom	3.19%	14
Wise River	0.46%	2
Lima	5.92%	26
Dell	3.87%	17
Grant	0.23%	1
Glen	0.91%	4
Jackson	1.37%	6
Polaris	3.87%	17
Outskirts of Dillon (within 5 miles)	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	4.56%	20
TOTAL		439

Q2: What would you describe as Beaverhead County's greatest assets? (select the top three)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



Q2: What would you describe as Beaverhead County's greatest assets? (select the top three)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0

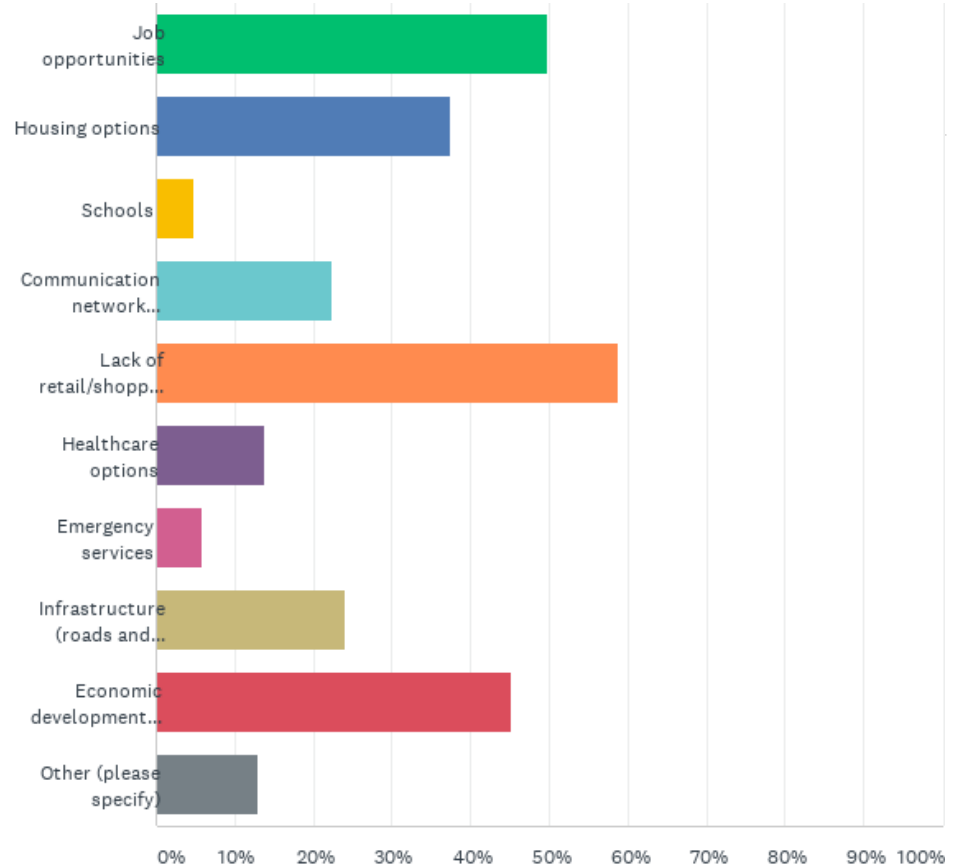
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Quality of Life	55.81%	245
Rural lifestyle	61.50%	270
Schools	21.18%	93
Affordability	16.17%	71
Health care facilities	10.71%	47
Opportunities for local business and entrepreneurial spirit	4.56%	20
Parks, trails and recreation amenities	24.83%	109
Abundance of and access to public lands (USFS, BLM and state)	46.92%	206
Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers	30.52%	134
Other (please specify)	6.38%	28
Total Respondents: 439		

Q2: What would you describe as Beaverhead County's greatest assets? (Written Comments)

- Dark skies at night
- Agriculture, timber and mining
- Farming and Ranching
- Sense of community
- Red Rock River
- friendliness
- Agriculture
- I havent found anything really exceptional about dillon
- Beaverhead co. Has lots of good assets that are currently untapped due to the lack of promotion by our slugs that are our commissioners and other city father's. All these people want is farming or ranching. The lowest paying industries there are. No wonder we have a third world economy.
- The people
- Great loving community minded people
- Everyone is horrible to each other which keeps the population down but the mosiquitos should get credit for that too and access to the land that hasn't been shut off or disregarded by the current ranger s
- agriculture
- Centennial Valley
- LACK OF DEMONSTRATORS AND RIOTERS
- low crime rate
- avoid big subdivisions
- low population
- Pioneers
- The University
- Lack of population density. Conservative lifestyle. Freedom in the broad sense. Open Space. Not necessary to conform to world norms.
- Montana Western
- I visit Montana frequently (I have lived there and taught for some semesters at U.of Mt. in Missoula. I love to walk the trails and canoe the rivers.
- Open space
- Agriculture
- Ranching
- Nature

Q3: What would you describe as Beaverhead County's greatest weaknesses? (select the top three)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



Q3: What would you describe as Beaverhead County's greatest weaknesses? (select the top three)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Job opportunities	49.89%	219
Housing options	37.36%	164
Schools	4.78%	21
Communication network (internet and cellphone)	22.32%	98
Lack of retail/shopping options	58.77%	258
Healthcare options	13.90%	61
Emergency services	5.92%	26
Infrastructure (roads and bridges)	24.15%	106
Economic development (attracting business and creating jobs)	45.10%	198
Other (please specify)	12.98%	57
Total Respondents: 439		

Q3: What would you describe as Beaverhead County's greatest weaknesses? (Written Comments)

- Outside interests influencing our rural and agricultural community and culture
- Limited recycling,
- Myopic views, political conservatism, environmental protection,
- Lack of progressive waste management and recycling options
- Federal land restrictions.
- Racism
- Cost of housing
- Traffic congestion
- Polarized politics
- Everything except internet/cellphone
- travel management on public lands. Unhealthy culture of driving anywhere and everywhere not abiding by posted closed roads/routes. Similarly, public lands mgmt agencies need help taking the confusion out of what's open and what is not.
- If it doesn't happen in Dillon, it's not important. Our lying areas are a very second thought.
- Smallmindedness
- Lack of racial diversity
- All of the above
- Our city government clearly not understanding what a budget is.
- This place is landlocked by one of the biggest parasites in beaverhead co. Nobody is going anywhere unless they pay erb.
- Lack of worldview
- no bowling ally
- All the crap with county health
- For profit hospital is very prohibitive to many here who don't have health insurance
- Childcare
- Horrible attitudes
- many jobs are only government jobs, medical jobs, farm jobs
- too much emphasis on recreation economy
- Old boy conservative attitude
- Growth and allowing subdivisions to pop up wherever - even in flood plains
- Non fee recreational public Playground and not a working landscape.
- City-County Government Relations
- cost of living--rent, ownership
- Trumplers
- real estate and land prices
- Lack of diversity
- I don't know of any major weaknesses.
- Social interaction availability, because of distance.
- Law enforcement

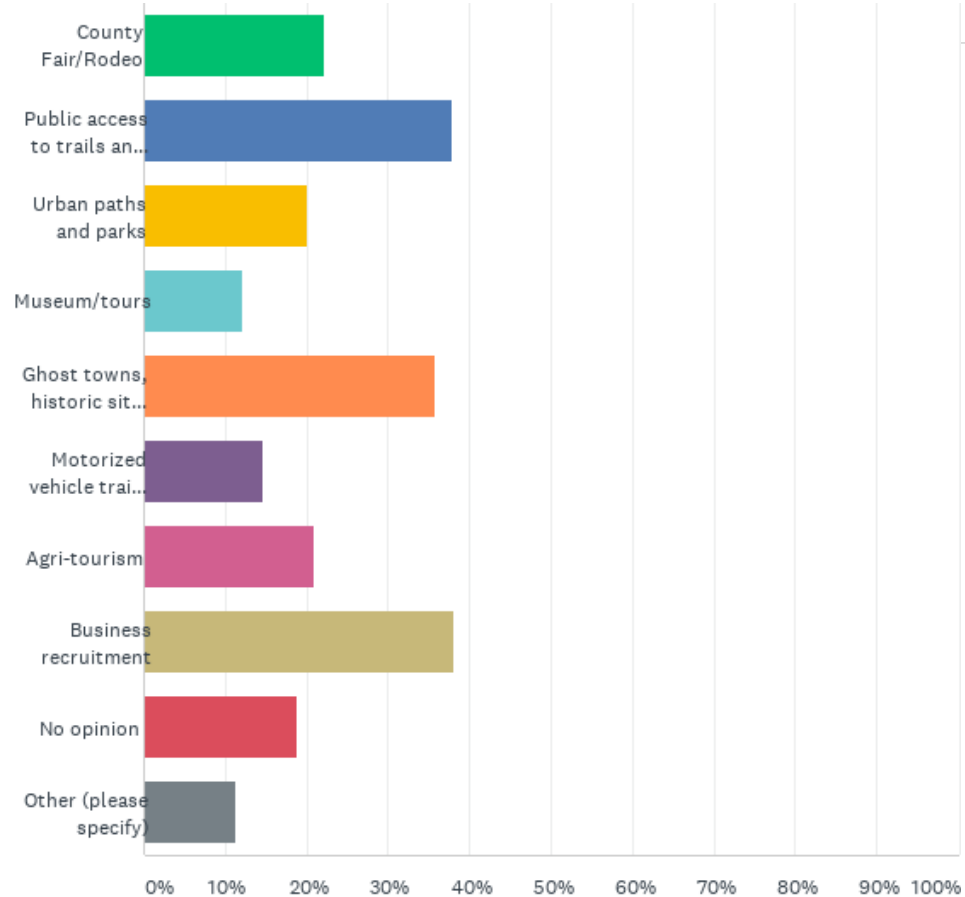
Q3: What would you describe as Beaverhead County's greatest weaknesses? (Written Comments)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0

- Lack of developed recreation facilities
- lack of good food establishments
- None of the above
- We could use a decent restaurant if we can ever go eat at one again.
- SOcial separation between the white and hqispanic communities.
- nothing, keep it like it is.
- Too many guides on rivers
- no rules for junky lots
- Affordable
- I think the things that I can be seen as it's weaknesses if corrected would end up ruining its appeal.
- Lack of diversity
- Lack of culture
- prevalence of disgusting Trump politics and attitudes
- Absentee owner property influencing our tax base
- Lack of Planning/Enforcement - Looks like a dying little town in eastern Montana, in town & out.
- affordability of purchasing housing
- Lack of diversity (racial, socioeconomic, political viewpoints, etc.)
- affordable rentals and housing
- Out of Staters Moving in
- to much growth
- subdivision and sprawl

Q4: Which of these amenities should be marketed more in order to attract additional visitors to the area? (check all that apply)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



Q4: Which of these amenities should be marketed more in order to attract additional visitors to the area? (check all that apply)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
County Fair/Rodeo	22.10%	97
Public access to trails and amenities such as the Big Hole River	37.81%	166
Urban paths and parks	20.05%	88
Museum/tours	12.07%	53
Ghost towns, historic sites and buildings	35.76%	157
Motorized vehicle trail system	14.58%	64
Agri-tourism	20.96%	92
Business recruitment	38.04%	167
No opinion	18.91%	83
Other (please specify)	11.39%	50
Total Respondents: 439		

Q4: Which of these amenities should be marketed more in order to attract additional visitors to the area? (Written Comments)

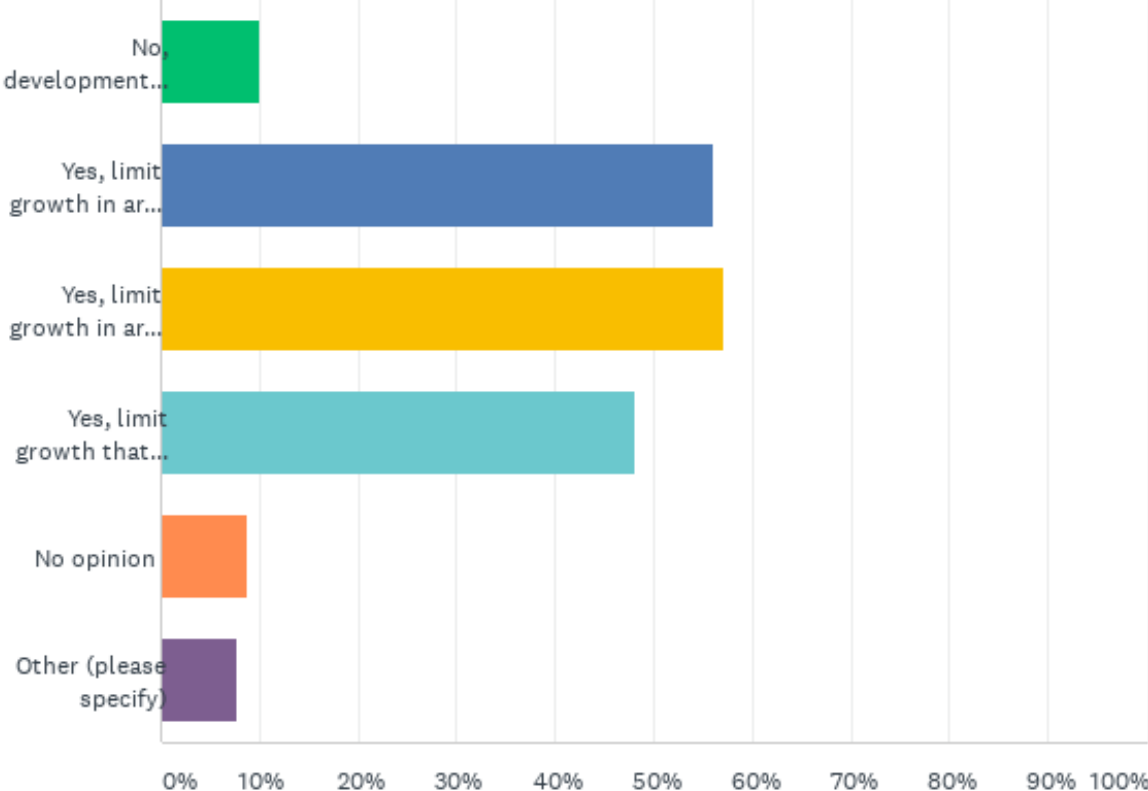
- none, don't want to attract visitors to our area
- On western
- College educated labor supply; K-12 education.
- We were overwhelmed with outdoor rec visitors this past year. No need to "market" the county. We need to plan for the portion of those visitors who decide to move here.
- Diversify the economy with logging, mining and industry.
- Less visitors
- Dining and coffee shops.
- Fishing, hunting and winter sports
- Not sure government should be involved.
- Events center
- No visitors wanted
- Anything to promote the businesses of Dillon and hopefully bring more jobs to the area. If we keep going at this rate Dillon won't survive and we will have no shopping.
- Bicycling opportunities in the county
- UM Western Block Program
- Small town events and activities available to regional residents and tourists.
- We dont need any more visitors!
- Open the roads back up to motorized vehicles including atv @ utv
- Don't want out of staters moving here!
- Shopping
- Why are we concerned about bringing more visitors when we really need to establish a viable and robust economy for our local people first.
- Don't want more visitors
- hunting and fishing
- The whole experience of rural Montana... truly the last best place... friendly people... great home food... abundance of wildlife... fishing camping... also to respect the land, landowners, wildlife... we are a very diverse accepting community respect ya and we will respect you
- Rural town options, activities, and promotion of events in areas of the county outside of Dillon.
- Signs for all communities explaining why picking up a stray animal could mean it's death from being a born raised cattle dog they don't need to go to the humane society to be put down if not found. Should be left where the animal was found.
- don't need any more visitors. This summer was too much.
- Our wild places on public lands
- safe clean environment
- PHYSICAL SAFETY FROM ASSAULT/ROBBERY
- Quality schools and healthcare
- Excellent healthcare
- Ample access to outdoor recreation opportunities
- I don't believe that we should try and attract more visitation.
- don't care to attract more

Q4: Which of these amenities should be marketed more in order to attract additional visitors to the area? (Written Comments)

- Do we want more visitors?
- college
- First decide what changes in your quality of life you are willing to change a little or alot. Remembering that the changes will be permanent and will grow larger if done correctly or wrongly.
- Additional visitors ARE NOT needed
- I don't want to attract additional visitors to the area.
- No interest in attracting visitors
- Good restaurants, if we ever have one.
- We have a mass of recreational campers in out public lands. We need more open space planned into developments so thatyou dont have to drive 10 miles to go for a walk.
- nothing. more people rin a good life
- I donkt think tourism should be the basis of an economy
- bike paths
- I'm not sure I want more tourism.
- We don't need an additional influx of visitors. Be careful of what you wish for.
- More public trails
- Dillon Parks & Hike & Bike trails, need to develop tournament business
- We need retail shops. Have to shop out of town for many items needed for our family.

Q5: Are there areas of the County where land development should be limited or restricted?

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



Q5: Are there areas of the County where land development should be limited or restricted? (check all that apply)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0

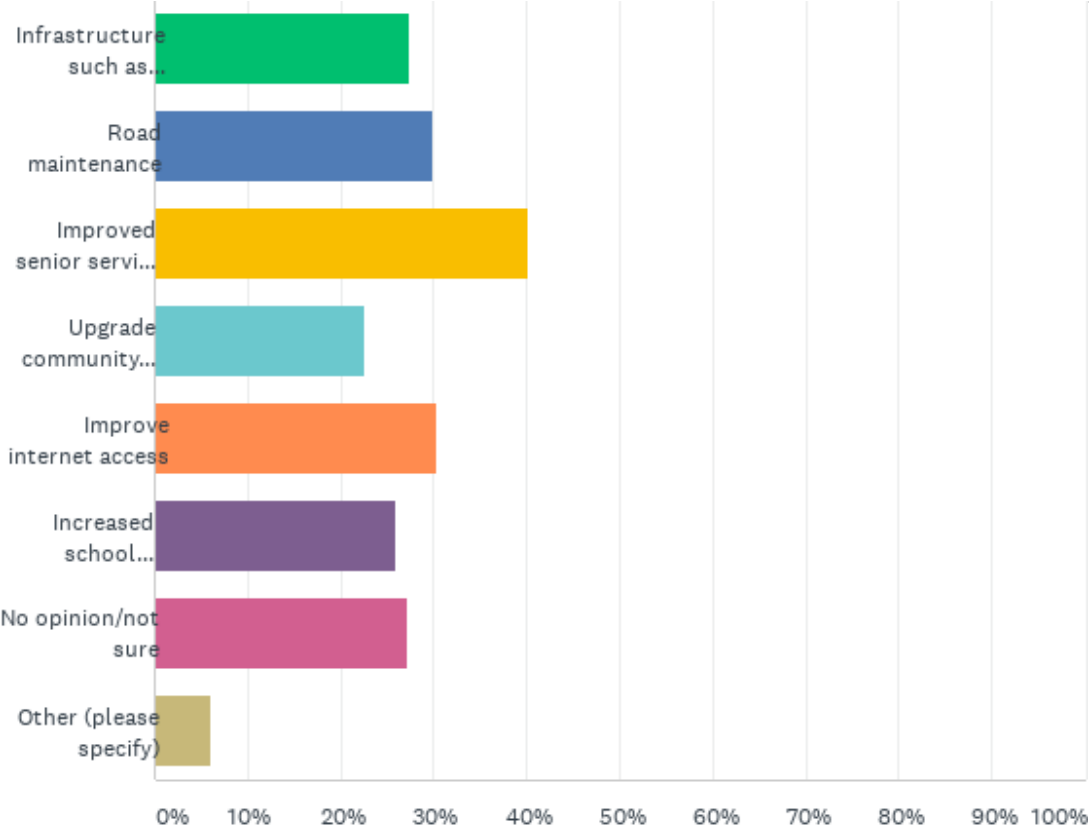
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No, development should be allowed everywhere on private land	10.02%	44
Yes, limit growth in areas that have natural hazards such as floodplains, high groundwater and steep slopes	56.04%	246
Yes, limit growth in areas where it will have a negative impact upon agricultural operations	57.18%	251
Yes, limit growth that would impact view-sheds and scenic resources	48.06%	211
No opinion	8.88%	39
Other (please specify)	7.74%	34
Total Respondents: 439		

Q5: Are there areas of the County where land development should be limited or restricted? (Written Comments)

- Growth should also be closely monitored in congruence with legal precedence (e.g. housing projects occurring on county roads in Argenta).
- River/watershed setbacks are a must
- Restrict high density housing. Build infrastructure to promote appreciation of natural beauty and resources of surrounding areas.
- Restrict growth on lands that provide access to public lands.
- Centennial Valley and Big Hole Valley
- Prohibit the storage of hazardous materials at inappropriate locations.
- Critical wildlife habitat
- Key wildlife habitat
- Consumption of groundwater
- Its complicated
- Keep public lands public. No selling public lands.
- Protect present housing developments from new noxious operations like a old car storage lot, businesses with noise, noxious smells or ones that decrease the quality of life of the residents.
- Work with local conservation groups and resource specialists to identify the priority habitats or migration corridors where development should be prevented.
- The upper Big Hole valley needs protection to maintain it's quality.
- This county really needs to progress beyond cows poop and sheep poop
- Yes but careful with all this. Private land is private land.
- keep ranchers in business
- NO PROBLEM AS THERE IS MINIMAL DEVELOPMENT
- County Planning is badly needed. Development has occurred terribly in our county. Ermont area is ugly, ugly, ugly.
- County planning is lacking - they are allowing anyone to build - just to get the additional 'taxes'. This is negatively impacting the lifestyles of others
- Limit Growth, Save the land, develop in or near town first and foremost. Keep montana wild folks. Let's not sprawl like bozeman
- regulate growth in areas of wildfire hazard
- Limit in fire-prone areas
- limit development in high wildfire hazard areas
- Keep wildlife habitat and connections open
- We do NOT want another Bozeman!!!!
- First establish and define what quality of life is and define it. Then answer this question. Beware of letting business people have to much influence. As a business person I can attest to this.of life you
- Yes limit development in areas that adversely impact wildlife habitat and require extravagant county services
- Growth should be avoided in natural areas where the nature elements can be preserved.
- limit building in areas of high fire risk. Limit sprawl by encouraging development of properties within existing city limits.
- Limit exurban sprawl by focusing growth in high density housing within city limits
- Private owners should have the right to determine their own growth.
- Need some sort of rural zoning
- Access to public information to grow should be an easier task. Knowing where sewer lines power telephone etc would be very beneficial because sewer lines are very hard to locate for some reason.

Q6: Places like Wisdom and Lima are home to many County residents. Which services would be most beneficial to such communities? (select your top three choices)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0



Q6: Places like Wisdom and Lima are home to many County residents. Which services would be most beneficial to such communities? (select your top three choices)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 0

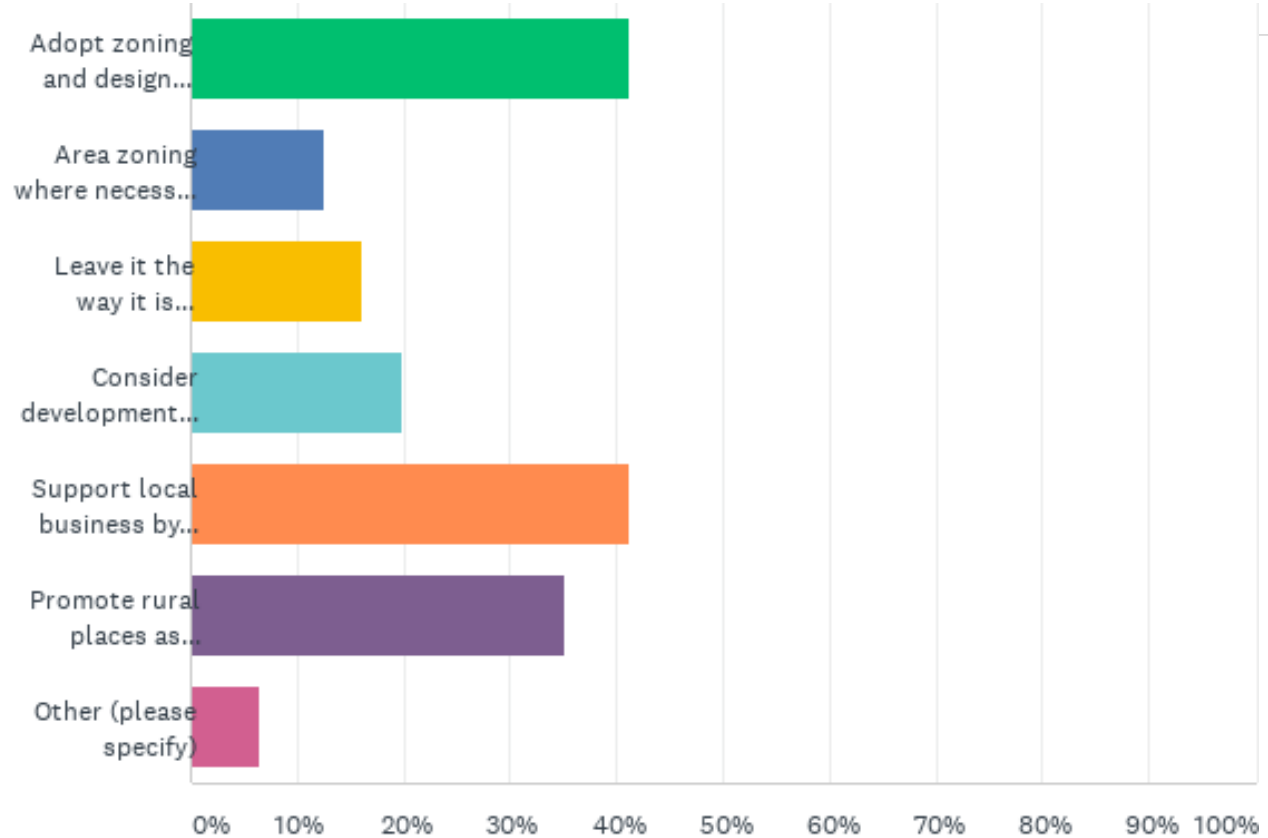
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Infrastructure such as drinking water and wastewater treatment	27.33%	120
Road maintenance	29.84%	131
Improved senior services (medical, transportation and assistance at home)	40.09%	176
Upgrade community oriented buildings (structural, remodel or expansion)	22.55%	99
Improve internet access	30.30%	133
Increased school resources	25.97%	114
No opinion/not sure	27.11%	119
Other (please specify)	6.15%	27
Total Respondents: 439		

Q6: Places like Wisdom and Lima are home to many County residents. Which services would be most beneficial to such communities? (Written Comments)

- School nurse
- Inclusion of outlying area constituents in county planning efforts
- Sunday morning church services.
- Retail shopping.
- Let free market determine.
- Healthcare Resources
- Economic opportunities to attract younger demographics.
- They NEED meals on wheels or similar outreach!
- Assistance with sidewalks and small town lighting, etc.
- Improve winter access for snowmobiling, some of the best sledding around is from the Lima Peaks to Lake view on the south side of the centennial. All of this area is closed. Winters are tough on businesses in these two towns. To improve snowmobile access would bring people into the area which helps the businesses.
- Employment opportunities
- Business opportunities or government facilities like Forest Service, BLM, Fish and Wildlife offices
- Cell coverage
- Cell service and coverage
- What the hell are you all a bunch of liberals. All you want to do is bring more government intervention into people's lives
- Grocery stores
- Big Hole Breezes Newspaper is just over a year old... we bring the news to the greater big hole valley... could use support... also could use more county road maintenance... often times our road is not plowed in the winter for three or more days... unpassable... we live 15 miles off the highway... Internet is not the best... slow and spotty... water in Wisdom is very bad for most houses.., community buildings are kept up by community donations only.. could use help... also if you could help promote events in the area that help sustain our family owned businesses would be great
- Sidewalks
- EMERGENCY SHELTERS FOR RESIDENTS
- Increase Fire Department capabilities, increase recruitment of Volunteers for VFDs.
- ROADS
- Ask only those communities folks.
- These places are becoming more for part-time residents, and limiting where development can occur is important
- Cell Phone Service
- Job availability
- thing are good as exists.

Q7: Some rural areas in the County would like to protect their rural character and while still growing in size. What is the best way to achieve that balance in the future? (select your top two choices)

Answered: 247 Skipped: 192



Q7: Some rural areas in the County would like to protect their rural character and while still growing in size. What is the best way to achieve that balance in the future? (select your top two choices)

Answered: 247 Skipped: 192

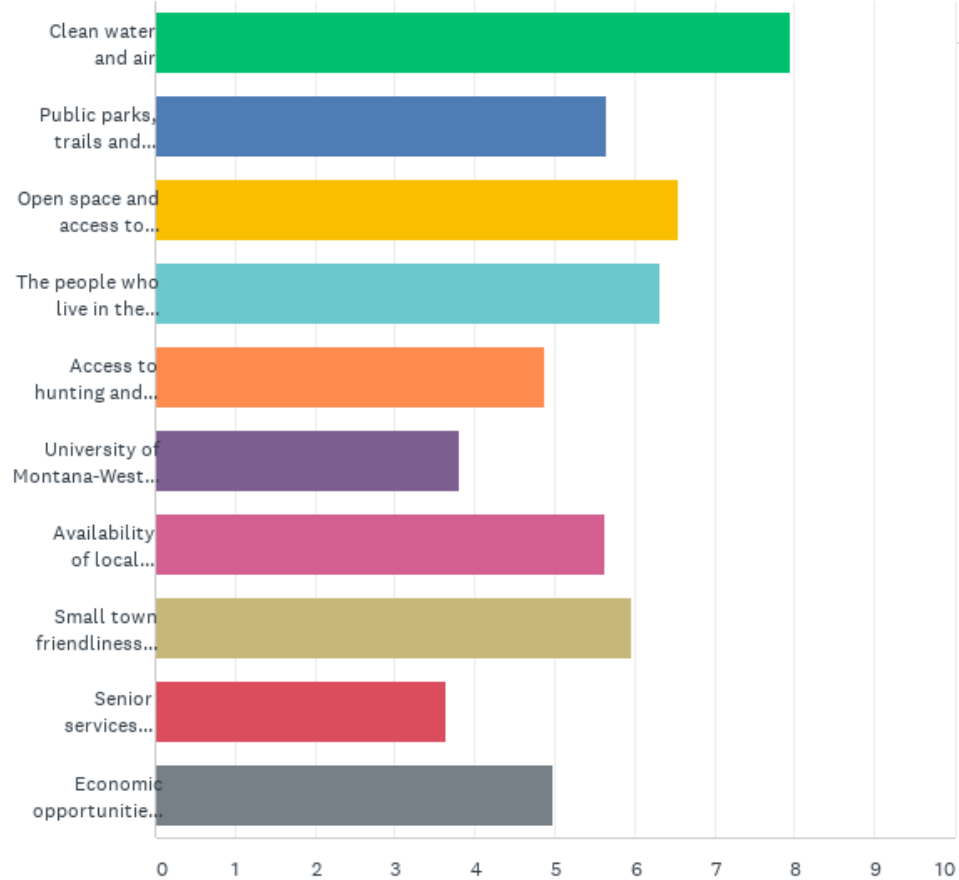
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Adopt zoning and design guidelines that encourage specific uses at a size and scale appropriate and reflective of the Rural Character of County.	41.30%	102
Area zoning where necessary to allow small lot residential construction adjoining the existing communities.	12.55%	31
Leave it the way it is currently.	16.19%	40
Consider development incentives, where appropriate.	19.84%	49
Support local business by offering financial assistance through grant and loan programs.	41.30%	102
Promote rural places as destinations for fishing, trails, and general outdoor recreation in the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest.	35.22%	87
Other (please specify)	6.48%	16
Total Respondents: 247		

Q7: Some rural areas in the County would like to protect their rural character and while still growing in size. What is the best way to achieve that balance in the future? (Written Comments)

- Unlimited growth is not sustainable without regulations. A free market approach would assume selling all property and development to the highest bidder. Areas like Polaris are particularly susceptible to this sellout, where inflated housing prices are creating a resort community. The resulting inflated socioeconomic standards of the community create higher taxes for the surrounding farms and ranches, while also supporting a community whose financial resources are independent of the local economy. This discrepancy of housing inequality negatively affects those who work and need to live in an area, but can not afford it. Tax incentives are the only way to curb external money from buying out Montana and disparaging our workforce.
- Involve constituents in planning development of their communities
- Protect dark skies from things like flashing neon signs, upward facing yard lights, etc.
- Its impossible to growth and stay the same as you were.
- It is not possible to grow and retain our character.
- Quit promoting the B-D Forest. Its a zoo.
- Ensure stream access
- Protect open spaces and don't sell out to sub-development
- Provide proper guidance to small community planning resources to enable future planned growth. Assist small boards, sewer/community associations, etc. with improved governance and abilities to assist communities in their efforts to thrive.
- Need to increase the amount of people economically connected to working in our natural resources. This will be the only way we will maintain our rural character and values as population increases. Support sustainable agriculture by attracting innovative approaches to process and package beef locally (ie. add value to the product by capilizing on the grass fed market).
- Send them to Madison or Gallatin county
- Who the hell is growing in size? They can't go anywhere because their landlocked by the greedy landowners.
- One of the rural challenges in big hole valley communities is housing... people want to work out here but there is no where to live... o the commute is long and arduous especially in the winter... I don't know what the answer is... rental housing development... but I understand why locals don't want some of these people staying here indefinitely... but housing in Jackson, Wisdom, wise River is truly an issue... I have worked in all three places
- If people start digging we're all gonna loose the valley and trying to modernize a society and making subdivisions is a horrible idea
- for any of this public input is necessary

Q8: What topics are of the greatest importance to you? Please rank them 1 through 10, with 1 being the most important.

Answered: 429 Skipped: 10



Q8: What topics are of the greatest importance to you? Please rank them 1 through 10, with 1 being the most important.

Answered: 429 Skipped: 10

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	SCORE
Clean water and air	39.28% 163	18.07% 75	11.57% 48	6.99% 29	7.23% 30	5.06% 21	3.13% 13	1.69% 7	4.34% 18	2.65% 11	415	7.94
Public parks, trails and recreational opportunities	3.42% 14	12.96% 53	13.94% 57	10.27% 42	11.00% 45	12.22% 50	11.74% 48	11.74% 48	7.33% 30	5.38% 22	409	5.64
Open space and access to public lands	11.62% 48	13.80% 57	15.50% 64	16.46% 68	10.65% 44	9.20% 38	7.51% 31	6.54% 27	5.57% 23	3.15% 13	413	6.54
The people who live in the County	16.42% 67	13.73% 56	8.82% 36	12.99% 53	8.33% 34	12.25% 50	6.86% 28	7.11% 29	7.84% 32	5.64% 23	408	6.31
Access to hunting and fishing	5.10% 21	5.58% 23	8.74% 36	10.92% 45	11.65% 48	9.71% 40	12.38% 51	13.11% 54	9.95% 41	12.86% 53	412	4.88
University of Montana-Western and other education opportunities	1.97% 8	4.67% 19	3.93% 16	6.63% 27	9.58% 39	11.30% 46	10.32% 42	8.60% 35	17.20% 70	25.80% 105	407	3.81
Availability of local healthcare and public safety services	3.41% 14	12.41% 51	12.65% 52	9.73% 40	12.90% 53	9.73% 40	15.33% 63	14.84% 61	6.33% 26	2.68% 11	411	5.62
Small town friendliness and atmosphere	11.03% 46	10.55% 44	11.27% 47	11.03% 46	12.47% 52	11.99% 50	10.55% 44	9.59% 40	6.47% 27	5.04% 21	417	5.96
Senior services (assisted living/independent living facilities etc.)	1.46% 6	1.46% 6	4.14% 17	7.06% 29	7.06% 29	11.44% 47	10.95% 45	16.30% 67	22.14% 91	18.00% 74	411	3.65
Economic opportunities (jobs and businesses)	7.91% 33	7.91% 33	10.79% 45	9.35% 39	9.11% 38	6.47% 27	10.31% 43	9.35% 39	11.03% 46	17.75% 74	417	4.98

Q9: Do you know how to obtain building and development information in Beaverhead County?.

223 Answered: NO

135 Answered: YES

Q10. Is there anything else you would like to share with the County Planning Board about living and working in the County?

- We need big store back like shopco.. But not shopco..
- As previously stated, unlimited growth is not sustainable without proper infrastructure. I am particularly concerned about the housing crisis occurring across Montana and the country. Inflated housing market prices are displacing the current workforce. The average home price in Dillon is one quarter of a million dollars (\$250k). The average income is less than \$15/hr. City and county planning must take action to support the workforce and those who actively contribute to the economy. Perhaps those who own multiple properties or out-of-state should be taxed at a higher rate? Perhaps large properties should not be used exclusively as a tax write off for the wealthy? Perhaps corporations should not be allowed to buy ranches? If Montana culture claims to support "our rural way of life," then how we grow and who our government supports needs to reflect that. Additionally, growth is not synonymous with being beneficial to all. Frequently small towns will make a push for increased tourism, growth, etc. and this has led to strains on the system and infrastructure. Be careful what you ask for.
- I think it's important for the county and city entities to work together for positive impact. The city has gone backward over the last few years with the current administration.
- Upgrade bridges and roads
- View the problems with collage students not living on campus. Our streets and bridges need help!!!
- Bring in a major retailer like Target and it will create jobs and attract more businesses and thus more people.
- The schism between the university and the larger community has become more apparent over this last six months, with many community members blaming the university for the unilateral rise in CV-19 cases. It would be appreciated if both communities could work together on this a bit!
- Assure that there are gun free zones (schools, church's, city and county buildings)
- Keep us Montana. We are not California.
- The appliance shop graphics are despicable and an embarrassment to our community. Bring back plastic recycling or aggressively minimize plastic use in the county.
- Beaverhead County is going to grow. Be proactive and plan for it!
- We have to plan ahead because people are coming to beaverhead county whether we like it or not. Be ready.
- We need to promote and support local businesses.
- I build whatever I want with out government intrusion and I want it left that way.
- Improved retail options like Target.
- Great place to live. Too many cows on public land and too many horses on small land parcels. Not enough bears and wolves.
- Prejudice against people who are minorities, none Christian or conservative is an issue.
- The County is only great because it is small and rural. We do not need to grow.
- Promote summer tourism.
- Do not promote growth.
- Hunters and anglers bring a lot of money to the County, but also damage roads through use and fill up our garbage sites.
- Time to start using public land for safety and forest health.
- We need more high paying commercial and industrial jobs.
- Love our small town where we know most of our neighbors and help one another.
- repair roads in a timely manner
- Do not allow piecemeal development in rural areas. Have a minimum lot size such as 10 acres.
- Yes, please request Minerals Technology of Pennsylvania to fund the paving of the Sweetwater County Road from the Sweetwater Subdivision II to their talc mine (including Carter Creek and Nisson Lane to Hiway 41). This county road system is heavily traveled each day and night; consequently, it quickly becomes very dangerous (even after the county's continual maintenance) due the heavy semi and truck daily traffic (night and day). Our county should not bear this cost when Barrett Minerals has numerous employees working several shifts, day and night, in addition to the various service and delivery semi's and trucks daily using this road. Eventually someone will pay the ultimate price for this inadequate road with heavy day and nighttime traffic. Thank you for bringing this important request to the Planner Board members and the County Commissioners.
- Development should be easier in town and that would curb urban sprawl to a point.

- The rise of "Pro Trump" attitudes of violence against those that do not support him is alarming and scary. What has happened to our beautiful country? Why is there is so much hate in people's hearts if you oppose (a democratic right) the policies of our elected leaders?
 - The people of Beaverhead county should demand that the city and county enforce building codes adopted by the State of Montana.
 - Yes. Take the covid situation seriously because we don't have the healthcare resources to absorb a big spike. And I'm sick of hearing about County Commissioners being rude to people concerned about this and sick of hearing about them brushing off the seriousness.
 - Stop inhibiting growth so young people want to stay.
 - Please bring back our Office of Public Assistance, Substance Abuse treatment, and Job Services. Please let us have better shopping options, A wal mart or something like that. Quit mashing us shop out of town
 - There is nothing to do in Dillon for young people and adults without children. This town lacks social activities for these groups and therefore Beaverhead County experiences significant brain drain to other communities where these populations can live, work, and be happy.
 - We really need to start putting a focus on how to build Dillon up. In my opinion we are so focused on not changing that we don't encourage growth and development which in turn hurts the local businesses. Look at how many businesses we have lost over the years. That's also jobs lost and possible decrease in population. Dillon needs business growth and development to be encouraged, no change is not positive for a dwindling community.
 - Thank you for the work you do for us.
 - Business rent or purchase too high in downtown Dillon.
 - I believe access to clean energy and continued access to high quality health care need to remain priorities for our planning board. As a working parent of a young child, access to quality childcare needs to be a focus in planning and community development if you want to continue to recruit and maintain a base professionals and families in the area.
 - Too much growth will bring bigger problems
 - We need a place to shop besides family dollar! We need to draw in more tourists and a still think custom glass figurine scavenger hunt would be a great option
 - Limit encroachment by out of staters
 - I would like to see the county planning board have small community meetings to solicit further needs and feedback in our communities outside of this survey.
 - I have lived in Beaverhead county my whole life and love it the way it is. It's all the outsiders that move here and bring their big city beliefs with them that I oppose. I've gone to school here, my kids, and now grandkids are here because we love Beaverhead county just the way it is
 - Beaverhead County is unique and needs to maintain its rural lifestyle.
 - Look for opportunities to partner with land management agencies and conservation organizations that are focused on improving resources for residents of the County while providing economic incentives.
 - Yes, The Centennial valley is one of the last great places around, however the upper centennial is no longer a welcome area do to the Redrock Lakes Refuge. The refuge is a joke, the only thing they do is burn up tax payers money. They do nothing to make the local residents feel welcome, in fact its just the opposite. The only thig they want is the out of state money donors. I would like to see more activities at the Refuge that promoted local activities only. Also the entire refuge should be open to hunting and fishing. Thanks
 - 10/6/2020 10:07 PMAdd tags –View respondent's answers
-
- Open everything up, stop making us live in fear, take control away from Sue Hanson. COVID is not going away, let's keep living, PLEASE
 - Consider more stringent process, payment and tracking for building, septic permits, etc. Seems that within the county requirements are not being followed consistently. Could be a source of income for the County and would help ensure environmental policy/requirements are followed.
 - Dillon's roads, sidewalks and boulevards are embarrassing. As are our parks.
 - Be fair....
 - Let people live there lives...don't interfere with home bound small businesses
 - Work with the local town residents in each community to make impoverishments. Blanket policies won't work as each community has individual issues and areas that need assistance.
 - Some of the newer subdivisions (silver wood for example) were not planned very well as many septic drain fields sit next to wells.

- I like the feel of Dillon and want locals to be able to create and use business opportunities and keep the people from other states out. Our great fishing, hunting, and wide open spaces are being over run by people who don't have the same level of respect as we do. Its infuriating. Money shouldn't be able to buy land that will effectively cut off access to public lands or subdivide. I hate that the cost of homes in the area is outrageous and that only people coming from out of state can afford to buy here. Its ridiculous.
- I believe the lack of cell phone coverage in our large, remote county should be the highest concern. It really could save lives if they have better access. Additionally, fire and ems should have more full time paid individuals. To increase response times.
- Less govt interference stronger private property rights
- I understand why renters don't allow animals. But those of us that have had animals in home here, Nd we've been responsible. It makes us impossible for us to move when there isn't affordable living here and people who allow animals. Im okay with an extra cost for the animal. But that would be something that should be touched on.
- Roads in the Big Hole are shit. The area does need some worker/seasonal help multi-unit living units. There's no where for help to live during the Summer.
- thanks for doing this--am anxious to see the results and ultimate actions taken
- Please limit development on our best agricultural lands.
- Fix roads
- we need to support positive growth.
- Easier for businesses to come here and make it. Be able to get things done yourself without having to hire an attorney. Make it uncomplicated.
- Don't let insider info like people who work in courthouse tell their friends and relatives where potential property will make \$ for them in future!
- You people really need to pull your heads out and promote and entertain some business other than the agriculture. This county needs a real tax base. For the resources sucked up agriculture pays nothing as far as taxes but receive most of the benefits. Oh and fix the gd streets in this town
- More housing
- Build houses on non- arable land, keep crop land in production.
- we need more jobs and more shopping opportunities
- Rent in downtown is too expensive for most small businesses.
- +Should consider that Dillon is part of county--County and City should work together for a good result in planning
- Road department rocks
- Stop shutting things down because of fear
- I love living here but there needs to be more growth (job opportunities-which yes means more people-but if no opportunities start arising people like myself will have to start leaving to find those opportunities to make a living)
- Zoning and building permitting would improve protection of water quality by inspecting well and septic placements
- The prevailing wage does not match the housing costs.
- The lack of retail and attention given to empty buildings.
- I love our area, however, we definitely need to attract more businesses and opportunities to help keep our young people and young families in our community.
- we really need a bowling ally
- It would be nice to have more road maintenance in town.
- Keep Beaverhead County the same beautiful place that it's always been.
- Would be nice to see empty stores filled with something
- Housing is hard to find out in the Big Hole, for people wanting to find work.
- Salaries for residents is not keeping up with cost or opportunities.
- Need fiber optic cable for internet available to everyone
- I would like more support of local, small independent businesses rather than franchises and chains.
- I'm a college kid who's broke and struggling all the time.

- Maybe a temp person in big hole for road department as they have a lot of roads to cover.
- The road crews in rural areas could use more people.
- The people here and their way of life should be protected... next is housing for workers in rural communities... if there were appropriate family housing we could get better workers... right now we attract people who are short time employees... advertising the events... the community... day, weekend, vacation what to do... big hole Breezes has ideas.. we are willing to help with.., call at 689-3636 or email at LSTOWERY@MSN.COM . This is something we are working towards... promote tourism, which is viral for our small businesses... but protect our way of life... check out big hole valley and the local breeze - big hole valley community on Facebook ... we support all our community all our county ...
- Yes. I think that these communities need to learn to accept everyone for who they are and stop trying to hurt harm or drive there neighbors crazy. It's become extremely apparent during this pandemic no one cares about anyone. It's absurd. People are committing suicide. So what do the people do in the town. Go against the deceased wishes and his wife. There are so many examples of ignorance and hurtful ness that is appalling and heart breaking. Growing up in this valley we all were almost friends. Got along well enough. Now our children can't even ride there bicycle down the road without some local who does like a kid enjoying the sunshine so let's run the kid over. It's disgusting. Sad. And to me unnecessary to plan for some zoning board unless everyone knows the big hole wants to loose there homes and business.
- Leave it an agricultural community. Don't attract the out of staters who are going to change it.
- Septic system rules and upfront building/development plans should be required. Dillon does not seem to get higher end houses built inside the town and it seems people coming in want to live out in the country on 5, 10, 20 acres which you can do little with. Do outsiders understand this? Not really big enough for horses. Restricting private owners is always difficult and must be careful with this.
- adopt an occupancy limit of 3 people per square mile.
- Thanks for asking for our opinions!
- Don't be so afraid to regulate development. The best kind of growth will be because of the natural beauty, clean air and water, access to health care, and safety, along with an educated population. Rural places in Montana that have lost those "amenities" have died.
- The locals are ignored as usual while outsiders are given tax breaks to come here; leaving the working stiff already here to bear the burdens of survival
- We are reliant on Federal jobs, they are the highest paying jobs in the county. If the USFS or BLM decide to close offices in our area, then the high paying jobs would be gone. We need more high paying job opportunities. No retail shops, really, attract something to the area. Housing prices are pretty astronomical, affordable to folks from out of state that sold places where they came from for high dollars and then purchase here. Don't know what they do for jobs to pay for those homes.
- I would encourage the County to really think about where housing development is permitted. My preference would be to have housing centralized around Dillon and leave the open spaces open for agriculture, hunting, recreation, etc.
- We are starting to see growth in the County and proper planning is very important. It seems like we are behind our neighbors in Madison County as far as planning goes.
- People from out of state are buying land up unseen. Is there something that can be done to stop prices going up and preventing Montanans being able to afford to live here anymore?
- The roads in this county are so poorly maintained!
- more business opportunity for people to move here
- I realize times are changing, but please don't let Beaverhead County become the next Bozeman - where only out of state people want to live
- All walk of life should be considered in all aspects, not just certain groups.
- It's important to focus on solar and wind development to improve the quality of our air and water. Even working to advance this in small scale and individual homes/businesses will attract other businesses that focus on environmental health. We need to increase internet accessibility in the outlying areas of BVHD county to attract more distance workers to the area.
- It would be greatly beneficial to the county to address the larger county living areas, for example: Laknar Lane, HWY 91 N and S. Those areas could use: improved roads, improved management of trash and junk on properties (laknar lane area specifically), improved traffic control, e.g turn lanes, etc.
- Please allow businesses into our town and county. The restriction put on any new business that wants to locate in Dillon is ridiculous. The City of Dillon Mayor and councilpersons are a major concern for me and I don't even live in the city limits.
- Need to develop and utilize our natural resources on both public and private land.
- Retaining the small town atmosphere, public lands that aren't busy, and access to public lands are important. Bringing more people to our county will reduce/eliminate these important attributes.
- The subdivision sprawl along the County roads and State highways around Dillon cost everyone in the County; these costs need to be reflected in the developers' costs. Sounds coming from the Commission and Planning Board are encouraging.

- Housing costs in Dillon and property costs in general in the county seem way too high for what it is. There are so few good paying jobs how is anyone supposed to be able to afford to live here or better yet, own a home? Also, aside from the High Trails system, to get to a hiking trail takes a minimum of 1/2 hour of driving. It would be good to see other hiking trail opportunities close to Dillon developed.
- The population is growing rapidly in Montana and counties all around us. Unless we are PROACTIVE our open spaces will be carved up into small parcels across the county. You have to start now or else it'll be too late. Open space for the people of Beaverhead County instead of suburban tracts and second homes!
- It is one of the best places in the US to live and work. This quality must be protected from outside forces who see us as only a place to profit. We see the horrible outcome of this taking place in Bozeman... Avoid this"!!!
- The roads in rural areas don't get priority. Spend more on upgrading and fixing issues, maintenance, due to increased visitor travel and use.
- keep the area great and not too urban.
- ambulance services could be in jepordy
- Dillon has been a good place to live and work for 18 yrs. Concerned with high housing costs in a small market.
- The loss of Shopko sucked, there is a need for a similar general goods store to support the County instead of leaving town. I do not think we need to promote tourism anymore, our rivers and public hunting access is already crowded.
- Growth is good but we have to be careful to not become a liberal haven for people fleeing Liberal states who want to change our community
- Rural road maintenance is inconsistent and late. I heard a story recently that when a resident of the Centennial Valley complained about Price Lane, they were informed by a commissioner that the road crew didn't work for people who complained. I think it's the job of the commissioners and the manager of the road department to reach out to county citizens and provide an opportunity for input, improvement, and better relationships. The commissioners' job is to make the county work well and be accountable for tax payers' dollars. Good, safe roads are important for any county improvement plan.
- We need put more emphasis on maintaining our county roads and bridges.
- disappointed none of the questions/concerns mentioned lack of availability of local social services or concerns about the lower income population in the County. None of these issues are ever addressed or talked about by either the City or County, and we currently rely almost solely on non-profit and volunteer organizations such as the Food Pantry, The Resource Center, Love Inc., Community Wood Bank etc. to try to meet the needs of this largely unseen population of our County.
- I have flown 41/2 million air miles so I have been somewheres. Been there, done that! There are a lot of special places in Montana but there will be alot less in the future. MIT/Yale study concluded that if there are open borders as some people want, there will be 187,000,000 illegals/legals enter USA (I think more). Will that change your quality of life? Short term decisions are easy, but long term with wisdom are really difficult. If you are in Chicago it's much easier than in Beaverhead County.
- Lack of Internet access and very poor road maintenance are a major hindrance to Quality of Life and business development
- Cellular service in Lakeview and the valley.
- Our natural resources and spectacular natural beauty are our biggest asset and are irreplaceable. Thoughtful development will be critical to maintaining these resources as a cultural, spiritual, recreational and economic asset into the future.
- The Centennial Valley should generally be preserved as open space. The campgrounds at the FWS Refuge get enough use to indicate that state and local agencies should consider building a campground near Lima Reservoir.
- Keep it rural, agricultural and open! Don't become like Gallatin county!
- Keep our environment clean and healthful, improve on infrastructure, bring in technological advancements
- Beaverhead County is a great place to live! I think the planning board is doing an excellent job - all things considered. It was difficult numbering the issues of importance because they are all important - generally, Beaverhead county is doing a great job in providing citizens with government services.
- Lack of good paying jobs, lack of affordable housing, terrible roads even in town limits
- incorporation of city trails will be crucial in planning. Great people love to be able to connect home and work place by walking or biking nice trails. this can continue to be a great positive trait of the community.
- Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS services need more manpower and funds.
- Identify sensitive environmental areas and control growth in them. "Zoning"
- No street sign for maurer mountain road. Poor signage for lakefront drive.
- Keep it small

- Making decisions that do not divide people, but pull them together for the greater good, not the single man.
 - I visit Montana for its natural wonders. If they are depleted there would be no good reason to visit.
 - Making trails interconnected is attractive to residents and visitors alike. A more active community is more healthy. I vacation in towns that have accessible trail networks because of these networks. I do not want to see continued urban sprawl. There is a definite need for more affordable housing given the level of poverty in our community.
-
- Beaverhead county is a gem. A real working agricultural landscape in a rural community with abundant wildlife & lands. It is the Montana I grew up in and I see disappearing rapidly in other communities. I hope we can realize what a rare blessing it is to live here and hold on to it.
 - Would like a store where you can buy clothes and shoes like a walmart or something
 - Stop trying to copy California and new York. They're over crowded and dirty.
 - Did I mention that I think there should be at least one decent restaurant in town?
 - The cost of housing doesn't match the income level
 - Please ensure new development protects dark skies at night. Its ine of the beauties of dillon. Don't allow any more lit signs and flashing lights.
 - Lets not ruin a good place by inviting the crazy big city outsiders who want to change things to what they just came from.
 - This is a great place to live. Thank You to all work for the city and county governments
 - Fix the streets.
 - Good job opportunities are essential to keep our rural communities alive.
 - Not everything should be about recreation.
 - love it...need more opportunities.
 - Rent is high. Even for someone who has a good job.
 - Out of state residents moving in driving up property values/taxes making it hard to afford housing.
 - More job opportunities would be great, as well as a shopping center like shopco.
 - clean up the junky places. fine them. I don't like the fire training facility. where is the EPA plan for fire waste?
 - Try and make the garbage dump better
 - Work diligently
 - More walking/biking paths
 - I don't want to see our small town turned into a big city.
 - Discourage residential building on prime agricultural land.
 - Let new businesses move in. Clear restrictions on new businesses and quit trying to prevent new businesses moving in because they may hinder someone's view.
 - Bring in some businesses, spending money in Butte or Bozeman does nothing for our economy.
 - Quit allowing out of state people to come in here and put up "shacks" that won't last long (as in the housing along the Interstate just south of Dillon) using out of state workers.
 - People and community first
 - rural roads are terrible
 - Keep it rural
 - too conversative, not really receptive to change
 - Senior services are limited. Jobs are scarce & affordable housing is limited.
 - To focus on growth will deplete what makes this a great place to live.
 - Not allowing out-of-staters to come in change out way of life and way of living. Maintaining our small town, rural, simple way of life while balancing that with opportunities for buisness and private sector employment that support the vast outdoor recreation opportunities we naturally have here.

- There is shopping and growth everywhere. Beaverhead is special because it doesn't have those things. Develop what is special about it: real cowboys/girls, scenic beauty, fishing and hiking.
- Nothing is more important for the well-being of a community than it's quality of life. This means neighborhoods that are pleasant to live in (and that usually includes trails or parks nearby, good infrastructures like road, sidewalks). The neighborhoods outside of city limits greatly lack of these. It is VERY difficult to circulate by foot or bicycle outside one's property (no sidewalks, no trails). Plans for trails and parks should be insisted upon each new neighborhood development.
- We need a Parks & Recreation Dept in both the city and county.
- It would be nice to limit the amount of out of state people moving into the county, trying to change our way of life to match the one they left behind.
- information on what to do before purchasing land and/or building on the land.
- Anyway we can have developments where people can't have junk? Or build dumb tiny houses that look awful from the interstate.
- As more growth happens, I believe certain highways with 60 or 70 mph should be reviewed. This is due to the fact that more people are now living off these highways and trying to get on and off with people traveling that fast could be dangerous.
- We need to encourage clean businesses, technology, etc. to promote jobs and additional opportunities for growth. I've lived all over the western US and moved back to Dillon in 1979 and have watched business after business close its doors. I don't want it to become just another wide spot in the road like so many other Montana small towns.
- We have a small B&B and Ag (hay & grazing) business. We are surprised the County allows so much abandoned/unsafe buildings & vehicles to accumulate on property. It creates a vision of a county that is not interested in growing or changing and lacks pride. These are observations from out of county/state visitors. We get used to the abandoned buildings and mini junkyards, guests remember these areas and compare us to communities with more pride. When was the last time there was even a discussion about a county beautification program??
- I love living here, but feel like local government actively discourages growth in a way that is counterproductive and unsustainable, if we want to continue to thrive as a liveable small town in MT.
- Thank you for your service and for taking the time to have a survey.
- Limit subdivisions especially small parcels
- Thank you for doing this survey.
- Thoughtful zoning is good. Don't fall into the trap the city did by having amateurs draft the code. Do your planning and hire a zoning lawyer to write the code.
- We do not need outsiders to come and try and change us to what the big cities are like.
- Keep in mind those citizens who have lived here for several years.
- Access to public lands across private land needs to be available year round. Several streams are not available to the public due to private ownership. Willow Creek is one example. China Town is another.
- The County needs to be involved in economic development. We need local businesses. We have to drive too far just to get necessities.
- Keep it Agriculture and rural.
- I LOVE my country and I LOVE my community. Two of my three grown children have moved back here and bought homes after living away for ten years.