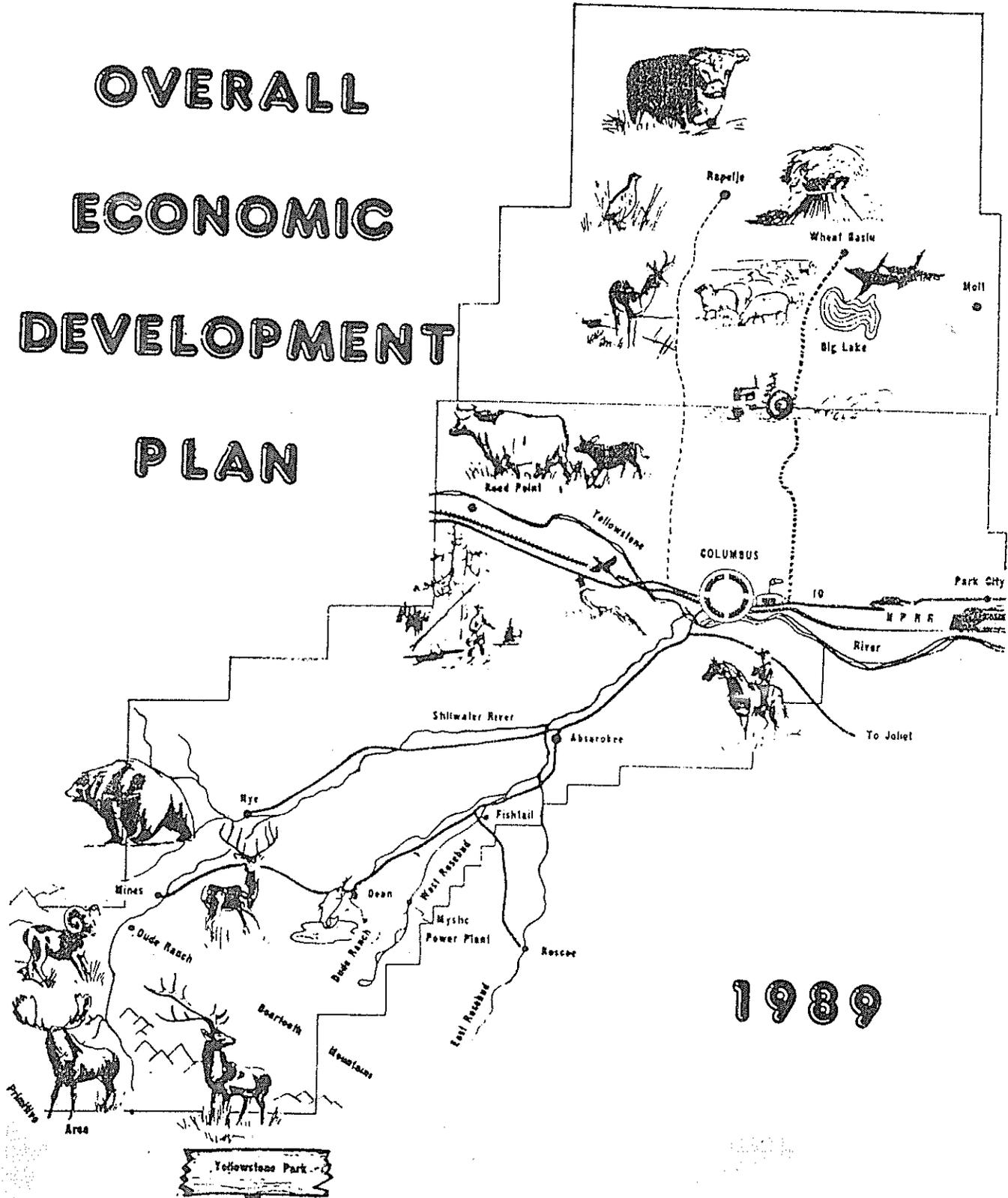


Stillwater County

MONTANA

OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN



1989

OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

STILLWATER COUNTY

MONTANA

Prepared for

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration

Prepared by
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INTRODUCTION

This is the initial Overall Economic Development document prepared for Stillwater County, Montana. This OEDP document contains six sections on I. the OEDP Committee, II. Historical Assessment of Past Development Efforts, III. The Area and Its Economy, IV. Potentials for Economic Development, V. Development Strategy and VI. Plan for Implementation.

Statistical information from the 1980 census was used along with more recent population estimates, labor statistics, and financial data as availability allowed. Several maps are provided for general orientation and to provide information on local conditions. All available data was used to describe Stillwater County and the local economy. Economic development potentials and constraints were analyzed from the available information. Specific projects and activities to support economic development were then proposed. Finally, a plan for implementation was prepared to describe major work elements of the OEDP Committee.

The overall Economic Development Committee has active participation from a variety of Stillwater County residents. Both private citizens and public officials serve on the Committee. In addition, Stillwater County and Town of Columbus officials were involved in the review of the OEDP Document and have committed to assist with the implementation of the program.

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SECTION I

I. THE OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Organizations

The OEDP Committee members have been appointed by the Stillwater County Commissioners and serve in an advisory capacity to the Commissioners or may make recommendations to the Columbus Town Council and coordiante projects with other public officials.

OEDP COMMITTEE

<u>Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Race</u>
Bruce Nathan Box 104 Columbus, MT 59019	Chairman	Banking	Cauc.
Lupe Gonzales Box 667 Columbus, MT 59019	Vice-Chairman	Postal Service	Hispanic
Carole Reynolds Box 307 Reed Point, MT 59069	Secretary	Supt. of Schools	Cauc.
Joe Dewey Star Route 2, Box 365 Nye, MT 59061	Member	Mine Supervisor	Cauc.
Webb Mandeville Box 69 Columbus, MT 59019	Member	Real Estate/Ins.	Cauc.
Dr. Greg Prior RR 1 Park City, MT 59063	Member	Dentist	Cauc.
Grover Rickman Rt. 2 Box 47 Fishtail, MT 59028	Member	Rancher	Cauc.
Pat Terland Box 595 Columbus, MT 59019	Member	Retired	Cauc.

Stillwater County Elected Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Earl Adams	County Commissioner
Fred J. Weiler	County Commissioner
Rick Young	County Commissioner
C. Ed Laws	County Attorney
Greg Noose	Sheriff
Marilyn Kober	Justice of Peace

Robert Noe	Justice of Peace
Marlene Johnson	Clerk of District Court
Marjorie Stene	County Assessor
Carol Rice	County Treasurer
Carole Reynolds	Supt. of Schools
Lois VanEvery	Clerk and Recorder
Cliff Brophy	County Coroner

Town of Columbus Elected Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Bob Kem	Mayor
Randy Erickson	Town Council
Paul Kober	Town Council
Randy Overhuls	Town Council
Dean Gerke	Town Council
Harold Jacobson	Town Council
Jack Kenyon	Town Council

Other Town and County Department Heads

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Ron Barndt	Town Clerk - Columbus
Terry Johnson	Columbus Public Works Director
Ted Mrozek	Columbus Chief of Police
Duane Christensen	County Road Supervisor
John Beaudry	County Planning Director
Rod Fink	County Supervisor
Bernie Hedrick	County Welfare Dept.
Chuck Egan	County Extension Office
Tom Kelly	Civil Defense
Deanna King	County Librarian
Bill Baker	County Maintenance

SECTION II

HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT OF PAST DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

BRIEF HISTORY OF AREA ECONOMY

Stillwater County, Montana has a very interesting economic history. The early history of the area included Crow Indians until the 1890's, explorers including Lewis and Clark in 1807 and John Bozeman in 1860's, mining prospecting began in the Stillwater Complex in 1860's, Northern Pacific Railroad established a rail line through the area in the 1880's, homesteading began in the 1890's and Stillwater County economy has a history of mining and agriculture as basic industries.

Large deposits of copper and nickel were discovered in the Stillwater Complex in the 1890's and Minneapolis Mining Co. developed some claims but interest shifted to the large chrome deposits of chromite during World War II in the early 1940's by Anaconda Copper Co. and again during the Korean War II in the early 1950's and ended in the early 1960's with the loss of 250 jobs. The most recent exploration was for platinum group metals which began in the late 1960's by Johns Manville and was later joined by Chevron in 1979 to form a joint venture called Stillwater PGM Resources. Anaconda Minerals also continued exploration work on their claims in the Stillwater complex through the early 1980's. Stillwater Mining Company was formed in 1983 which currently includes Chevron USA, Inc., Mansville Sales Corporation and LAC Minerals (USA), Inc. Development of the Stillwater Mine began in 1988 and commercial production began in 1987. Stillwater Mining Company currently employs over 350 people and is projected to increase their work force up to 460 employees in the next two years. There is also renewed interest in Chrome mining in the Stillwater Complex but no definite development plans at this time.

Initial agricultural development of Stillwater County came between 1900 and 1920. This was the era of homesteading when more than 1,300 farms and ranches were established in Stillwater County. The drought of the 1920's and economic depression of the 1930's reduced the numbers of homesteaders significantly as the county's population declined by almost 2,000 people. There are currently 420 farm or ranch proprietors in Stillwater County. The number of farm or ranch proprietors has remained relatively stable over the past decade. However, there have been significant fluctuations in profitability because of low prices for agricultural product, high costs of production, and farm debt problems. Drought and grasshopper infestations have also complicated the problems for farmers and ranchers in Stillwater County during the 1980's.

The Communities of Absarokee, Columbus, Fishtail, Molt, Nye, Park City, Rapelje and Reed Point developed as service centers for the agricultural and mining based economy of Stillwater County. These communities now provide a variety of goods and services which contribute to the total economy of Stillwater County and providing over 2,000 jobs for county residents.

ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Stillwater County has not had an Overall Economic Development Program in the past. Previous efforts in economic development have been delegated to the Stillwater City-County Planning Board by the Columbus Town Council and Stillwater County Commissioners. The City-County Planning Board was formed in 1967 and a comprehensive area plan for sewer and water was completed in 1970. Subsequent Sewer Facility plans were completed for Absarokee collection system in 1975 and Absarokee treatment system in 1977 and amended in 1984, Reed Point Sewage System facility Plan in 1976, Fishtail Sewage System Facility Plan in 1976, Park City Sewer Plans were completed in 1967 with changes in 1978, and Columbus sewer plans were completed in 1988.

In 1983 a needs assessment was completed for Stillwater County and the Town of Columbus. The needs assessment was updated in 1986. The primary focus of the needs assessment was the need to improve the County's infrastructure including roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, solid waste collection and disposal facilities, fire protection, parking lots, courthouse, library, and museum buildings, parks and recreation sites. Since 1983 the following projects have been completed or are in progress. A 50 unit parking lot was constructed to serve the County Fairgrounds. The courthouse parking lot was improved to provide controlled access, paved parking and drainage away from the courthouse foundation. A 49 unit campground is being redeveloped at Itch-Kep-Pe park in Columbus. The 9 hole golf course in Columbus has been redeveloped to U.S.G.A. specifications. The Absarokee Sewer System was upgraded to meet EPA Standards. The Absarokee Swimming Pool was reconstructed. A new water supply well was added to the Columbus water system and an access road was built to the Columbus Water Tanks. Stillwater County opened a new landfill north of Columbus and improved several existing collection sites. The Fireman's Point Bridge over the Stillwater River was replaced along with the Spring Creek and Ingersoll bridges.

In addition, a Hard Rock Mining Economic Impact was negotiated with Stillwater Mining Company in 1985 and amended in 1988. These impact plans specify impact funding for local government facility and services up to \$5 million. A new high school in Absarokee is planned. Also an addition to the Columbus elementary school and improvements to the Nye and Fishtail elementary schools are included in the impact plan. Funds for the Absarokee Sewer Improvement project and partial funding of the FAS 419 reconstruction project are also included in the plan.

Several civic groups have been active in community development efforts. Columbus Enterprises, Inc. was successful in attracting Timberweld, Mfg. to locate in Columbus in 1956. The Park City Development Council was formed in 1975 and was active in the design of the new school, study of a potential water system, remodeling the civic center, installing street signs, street lighting project and they are currently working on a street improvement plan and are

hopeful for a future park project. The ReedPoint Jaycess have developed a foundation program for a multi-purpose community building. Absarokee has an active Civic Club and Lions Club. There are historical societies in Columbus and Absarokee. Absarokee has an active Swimming Pool Assn. and Columbus has a Parks, Pool and Recreation Assn. There are community clubs in Beehive and Dean. The Kiwanis, Optomist and Jaycees have active groups in the county along with VFW and American Legion Posts. 4-H and FFA Chapters have been active in the county for years in addition to the woolgrowers and stockgrowers associations. There are also garden clubs, sportsmen groups and a variety of other civic groups which have been contributing to community development efforts in Stillwater County.

Finally the most recent economic development effort was the completion of the Montana Certified Communities program by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce with assistance from the Stillwater County Planning Office.

SECTION III
THE AREA AND ITS ECONOMY

A. General Description of Area

Stillwater County is located in Southcentral Montana (See Maps 1 & 2) The County consists of 1,793 square miles of land area which is 1,151,808 acres. there is a diversity of geographic and topographic features in the area from the Beartooth Mountains in the southern end of the county, to the Stillwater and Yellowstone river valleys in the central sections of the county, to the lake basins and coulees in the northern end of the county. Elevations range from over 12,000 ft. above sea level near granite peak on the southern boundary of Stillwater County to less than 3400 ft. above sea level near Park City in the east central part of the county.

Interstate 90 is the main transportation linkage through the county in both east and west directions. Montana Rail Link's main railroad line parallels Interstate 90 through the county along with old state highway 10. Other major highways include FAP 78 from Columbus to Redlodge, FAS 306 from Columbus to Rapelje, FAS 419 to Nye. FAS 420 from Absarokee to Spring Creek and FAS 421 from Columbus to Joilet. The county seat of Columbus is located 40 miles from Billings, Montana's largest city. 100 miles from Bozeman, home of Montana State University. 496 miles from Spokane, WA, 501 miles from Salt Lake City, UT., 598 miles from Denver, Co., and 852 miles from Minneapolis, MN. There is a municipal airport in Columbus and the nearest commercial air service is available at Billings Logan International Airport. United Parcel Service and truck freight delivery are available in the County as well as Greyhound Bus Service.

Stillwater County has an official 1988 estimated population of 6200 people. Approximately 32% of the county population lives in the Columbus area another 19% live in the Absarokee area, and 16% live in the Park City area. The remaining 33% of the population live in the rural areas of the county.

B. Population and Labor Force

The population of Stillwater County was reported to be 5,598 people in the 1980 Federal Decennial Census and the latest official estimate reported a population of 6200 in 1988. The following tables show the components of population change from 1960 to 1970 and 1970 to 1980. Exhibit shows population trends from 1920 to 2000.

POPULATION		CHANGE		COMPONENTS OF CHANGE (ESTIMATES)			
1960	1970	NUMBER	PERCENT	BIRTHS	DEATHS	NET MIGRATION NUMBER	PERCENT
5,526	4,632	-894	-16.2	726	576	-1,044	-18.9

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE: 1970 AND 1980

POPULATION		CHANGE		COMPONENTS OF CHANGE (ESTIMATES)			
1980	1970	NUMBER	PERCENT	BIRTHS	DEATHS	*NET MIGRATION NUMBER	PERCENT
5,598	4,632	966	20.9	707	551	810	17

The median age of Stillwater County population was 33.3 years which was down from 35.5 years in 1970. The characteristics of the population by age and sex are shown on exhibit 2 and the population profile is shown on exhibit 3. The distribution of population within the county and population change between 1970 and 1980 is shown on map 3 and exhibit 4.

The racial composition of Stillwater County is shown in the Table below. Less than 1% of the population is non-white.

POPULATION BY RACE: 1970 AND 1980

RACE	1980		1970		PERCENT CHANGE 1970 TO 1980
	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	
TOTAL POPULATION	5,598	100.0	4,632	100.0	20.9
WHITE	5,558	99.3	4,595	99.2	21.0
NON-WHITE	40	0.7	37	0.8	8.1
INDIAN	31	0.6	23	0.5	34.8
OTHER	9	0.2	14	0.3	-35.7

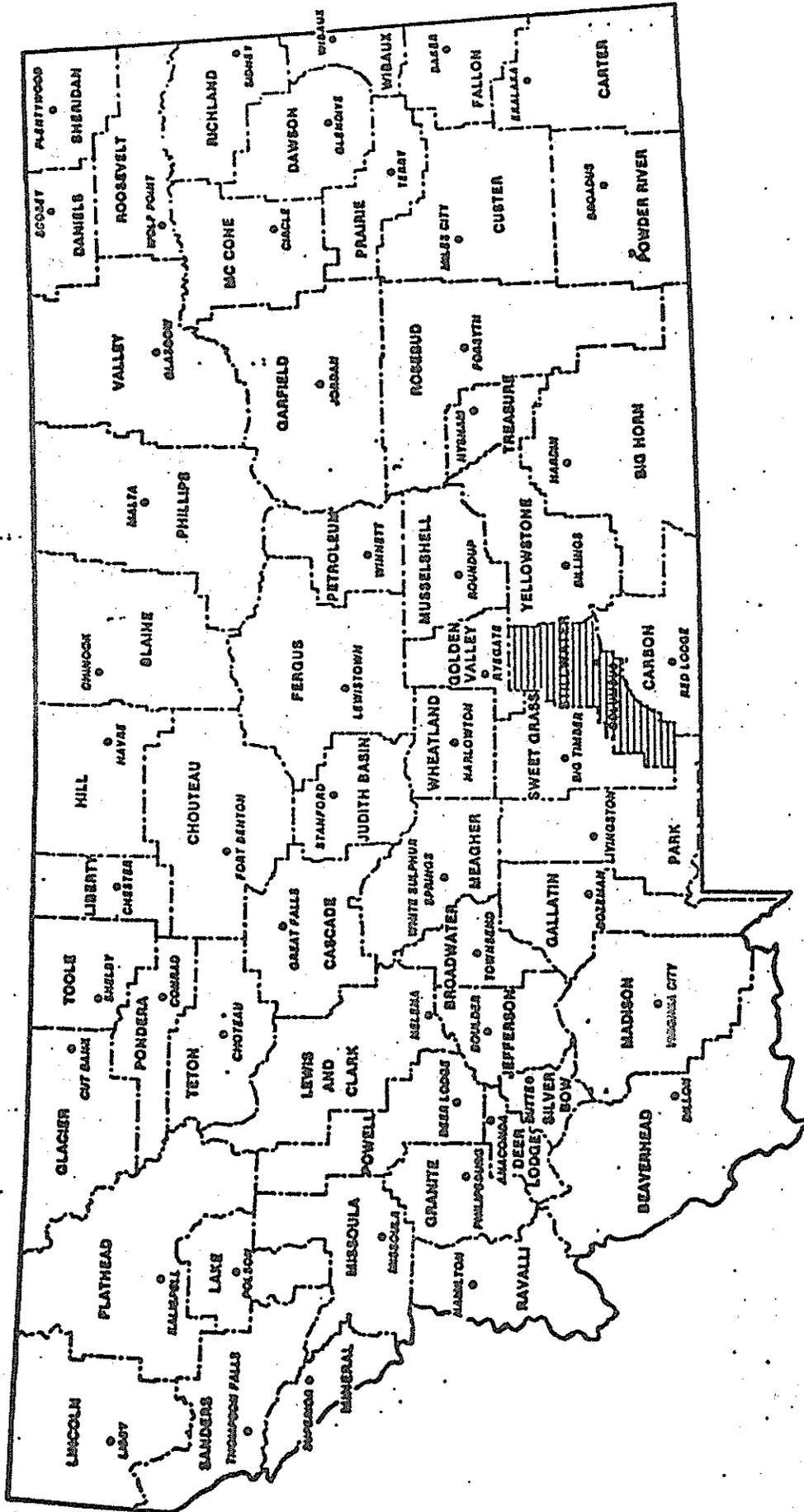
The educational level of adults 18 and 25 years and over is shown in the following table for both 1970 and 1980 and is compared with the state statistics. Stillwater County is below state averages for educational level of adults.

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OVER AND PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER: 1970 AND 1980
(DATA BASED ON SAMPLE)

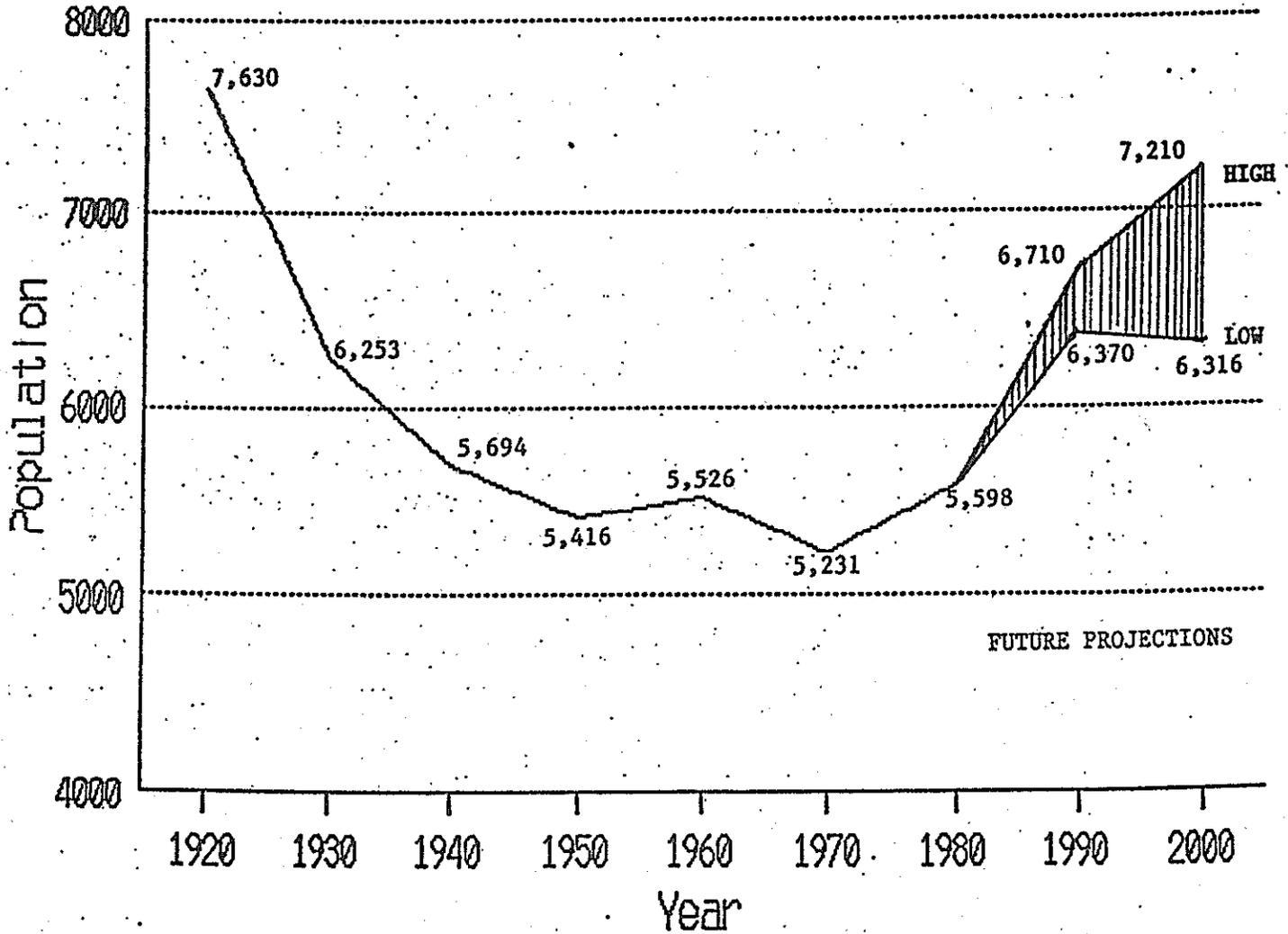
ITEM	TOTAL	PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OVER			TOTAL	PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER				MEDIAN SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED
		PERCENT COMPLETING	11 YEARS OR LESS	12 YEARS OR MORE		PERCENT COMPLETING	11 YEARS OR LESS	12 YEARS OR MORE	16 YEARS OR MORE	
1980										
MONTANA	554,887	24.6	75.4	15.2	450,862	4.7	25.6	74.4	17.5	12.6
STILLWATER	3,991	29.4	70.6	11.2	3,528	4.9	29.1	70.9	12.3	12.5
1970										
MONTANA	440,583	38.8	61.2	10.1	364,508	8.9	40.8	59.2	11.0	12.3
STILLWATER	3,101*	43.3	56.7	7.3	2,776	7.4	43.7	56.3	7.1	12.2

The median family income was reported to be \$15,363 in 1979. Exhibit 5 compares family income levels with state averages over a 20 year period. Stillwater County family income levels are below the state averages. Per Capita income has been increasing since 1976 (See exhibit 6) and in 1984 it was just under 10,000 per person.

- (1) The civilian labor force in Stillwater County was reported to be 2997 in September 1988. Exhibit 7 shows the county labor force characteristics by age, sex and race.



STILLWATER COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population
Mountain West Research, Inc., Stillwater Population Projections
Stillwater Mining Company, Economic Impact Plan

FIGURE 2

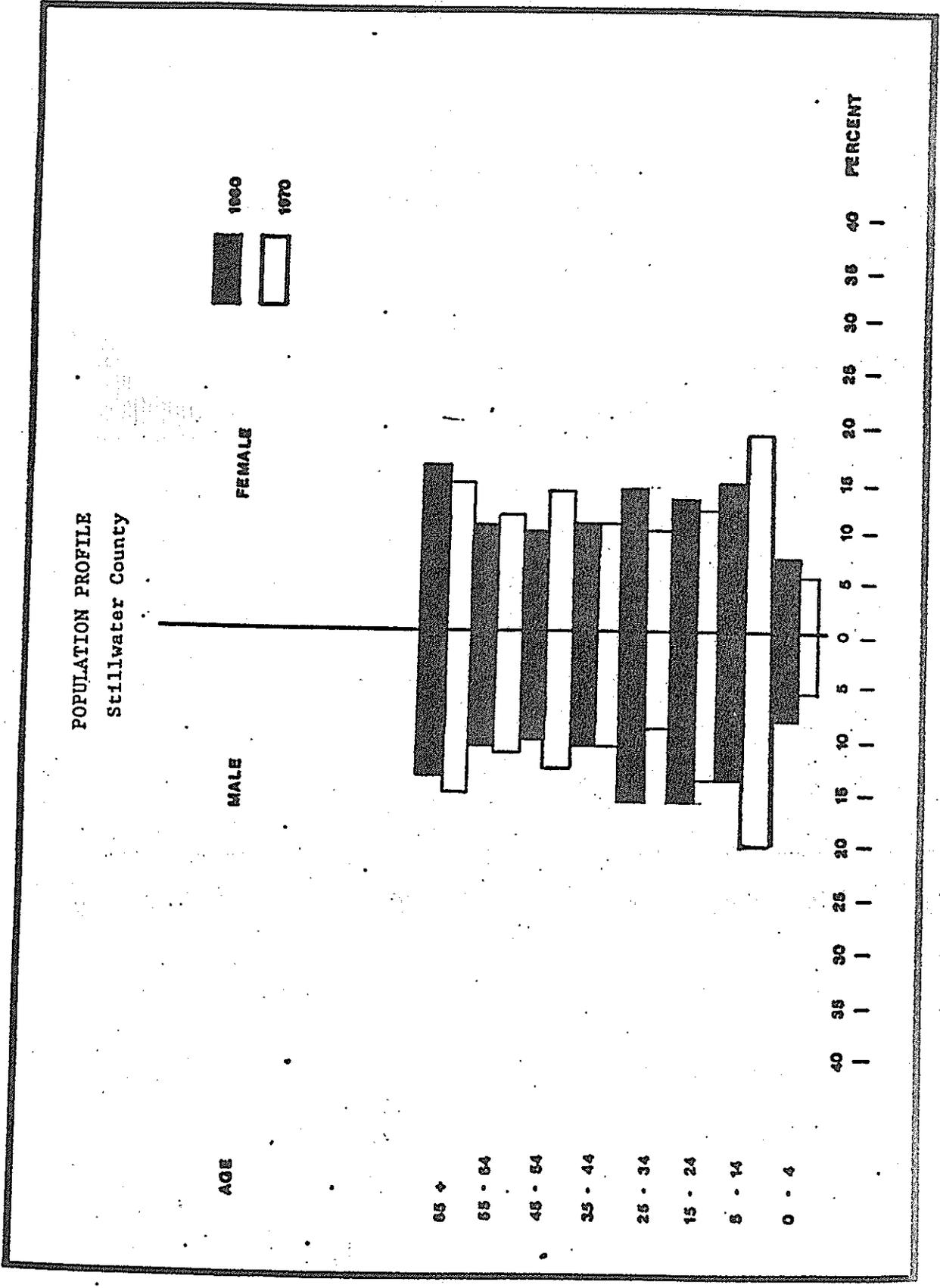


FIGURE 3

COUNTY PROFILES - STILLWATER COUNTY
SECTION - POPULATION

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX: 1980 AND 1970

AGE/SEX GROUP	1980		1970		PERCENT CHANGE 1970 TO 1980
	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	
TOTAL, ALL AGES	5,598	100.0	4,632	100.0	20.9
UNDER 5	440	7.9	287	6.2	53.3
5 TO 17	1,157	20.7	1,244	26.9	-7.0
18 TO 59	2,809	50.2	2,175	47.0	29.1
60 TO 64	303	5.4	242	5.2	25.2
65 AND OVER	889	15.9	684	14.8	30.0
5 YEARS OLD	73	1.3	87	1.9	-16.1
18 YEARS OLD	95	1.7	61	1.3	55.7
UNDER 15	1,254	22.4	1,208	26.1	3.8
MEDIAN AGE	33.3	...	35.5	...	-6.2
MALE, ALL AGES	2,806	100.0	2,338	100.0	20.0
UNDER 5	230	8.2	147	6.3	56.5
5 TO 17	587	20.9	654	28.0	-10.2
18 TO 59	1,423	50.7	1,076	46.0	32.2
60 TO 64	158	5.6	121	5.2	30.6
65 AND OVER	408	14.5	340	14.5	20.0
5 YEARS OLD	41	1.5	45	1.9	-8.9
18 YEARS OLD	52	1.9	27	1.2	92.6
UNDER 15	637	22.7	625	26.7	1.9
MEDIAN AGE	32.1	...	34.8	...	-7.8
FEMALE, ALL AGES	2,792	100.0	2,294	100.0	21.7
UNDER 5	210	7.5	140	6.1	50.0
5 TO 17	570	20.4	590	25.7	-3.4
18 TO 59	1,386	49.6	1,099	47.9	26.1
60 TO 64	145	5.2	121	5.3	19.8
65 AND OVER	481	17.2	344	15.0	39.8
5 YEARS OLD	32	1.1	42	1.8	-23.8
18 YEARS OLD	43	1.5	34	1.5	26.5
UNDER 15	617	22.1	583	25.4	5.8
MEDIAN AGE	34.6	...	36.2	...	-4.4

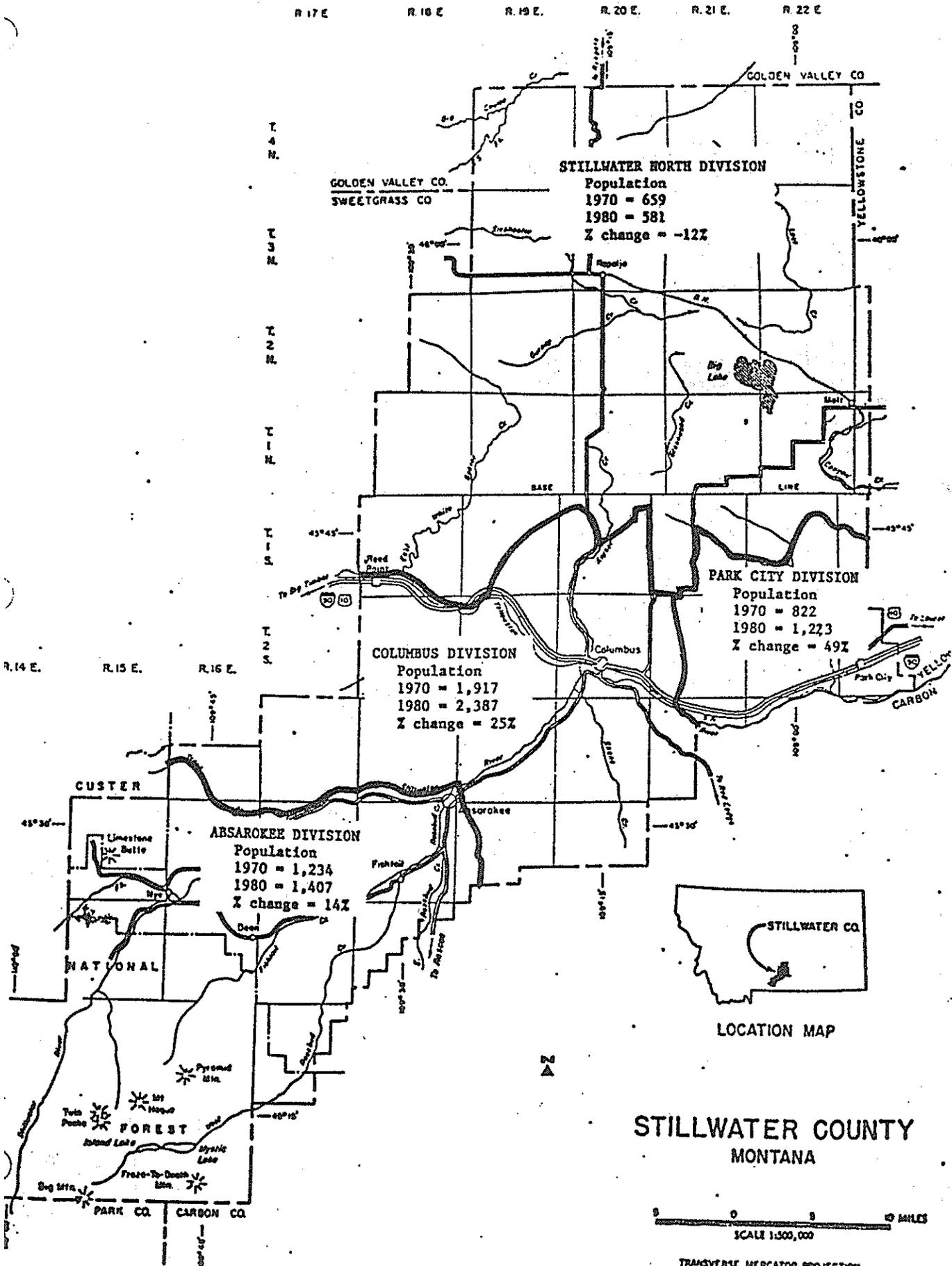
...NOT APPLICABLE

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, CENSUS OF POPULATION: 1980 & 1970, COMPUTER TAPES

POPULATION

ADMIN/CEIC MAY 1983

MAP 3 POPULATION CHANGE 1970-1980



1970 CENSUS

1980 CENSUS

Area	Population	Housing Units	Area	Population	Housing Units
STILLWATER COUNTY	4,832	1,959	Stillwater County County 095	5,598	2,681
ABSAROOKE DIVISION			ABSAROOKE DIVISION		
ED 0008	869	398	CCD 005	1,407	913
ED 0009	216	156	ED 1010	767	375
ED 0010	149	115	ED 1011	181	132
			ED 1012	32	19
			ED 1013	225	243
			ED 1014	202	144
DIVISION TOTAL	1,234	669			
COLUMBUS DIVISION			COLUMBUS DIVISION		
ED 0003	270	105	CCD 010	2,387	1,060
ED 0004	903	371			
ED 0005	178	58			
DIVISION TOTAL	1,351	534			
COLUMBUS SOUTH DIVISION			COLUMBUS TOWN		
ED 0007	566	252	PLACE 0155	1,439	602
DIVISION TOTAL	566	252	ED 1005	362	159
			ED 1006A	1,077	443
			REMAINDER OF COLUMBUS DIV		
			NOT IN PLACE	948	458
			ED 1006B	5	2
			ED 1007	191	78
			ED 1008	341	137
			ED 1009	411	241
			PARK CITY DIVISION		
			ED 025	1,223	449
			ED 1003	145	52
			ED 1004	1,078	397
			STILLWATER NORTH DIVISION		
			CCD 030	581	259
			ED 1000	207	91
			ED 1001	166	85
			ED 1002	208	83

FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5

COUNTY PROFILES - STILLWATER COUNTY SECTION INCOME

FAMILIES BY INCOME IN 1959, 1969, AND 1979 (DATA BASED ON SAMPLE)

ITEM	ALL FAMILIES	LESS THAN \$5,000	\$5,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$14,999	\$15,000-\$24,999	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000 AND OVER	MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME (DOL.)	COUNTY RANK

1979									
MONTANA STILLWATER	207,525	14,918	29,746	34,618	67,706	52,602	7,705	18,413	37
	1,551	170	264	320	464	308	25	15,363	
1969									
MONTANA STILLWATER	171,812	37,870	67,867	42,564	18,440	4,159	912	8,512	52
	1,284	397	522	235	88	32	10	6,752	
1959									
MONTANA STILLWATER	165,777	73,467	73,260	13,790	4,008	1,252*	NA	5,403	34
	1,457	780	569	88	12	8*	NA	4,790	
PERCENT									
1979									
MONTANA STILLWATER	100.0	7.2	14.3	16.7	32.6	25.4	3.7	...	...
	100.0	11.0	17.0	20.6	29.9	19.9	1.6	...	...
1969									
MONTANA STILLWATER	100.0	22.0	39.5	24.6	10.7	2.4	0.5	...	...
	100.0	30.9	40.7	18.3	6.9	2.5	0.8	...	...
1959									
MONTANA STILLWATER	100.0	44.3	44.2	8.3	2.4	0.8*	NA	...	...
	100.0	53.5	39.1	6.0	0.8	0.5*	NA	...	...
NA NOT AVAILABLE. ... NOT APPLICABLE.									

*TABULATED AS \$25,000 OR MORE IN 1959.

SOURCE: U.S. BUR OF THE CENSUS, CENSUS OF POPULATION: 1970 AND 1980, COMPUTER TAPES; 1960, V.1, PT. 28.

STILLWATER CO. Per Capita Income

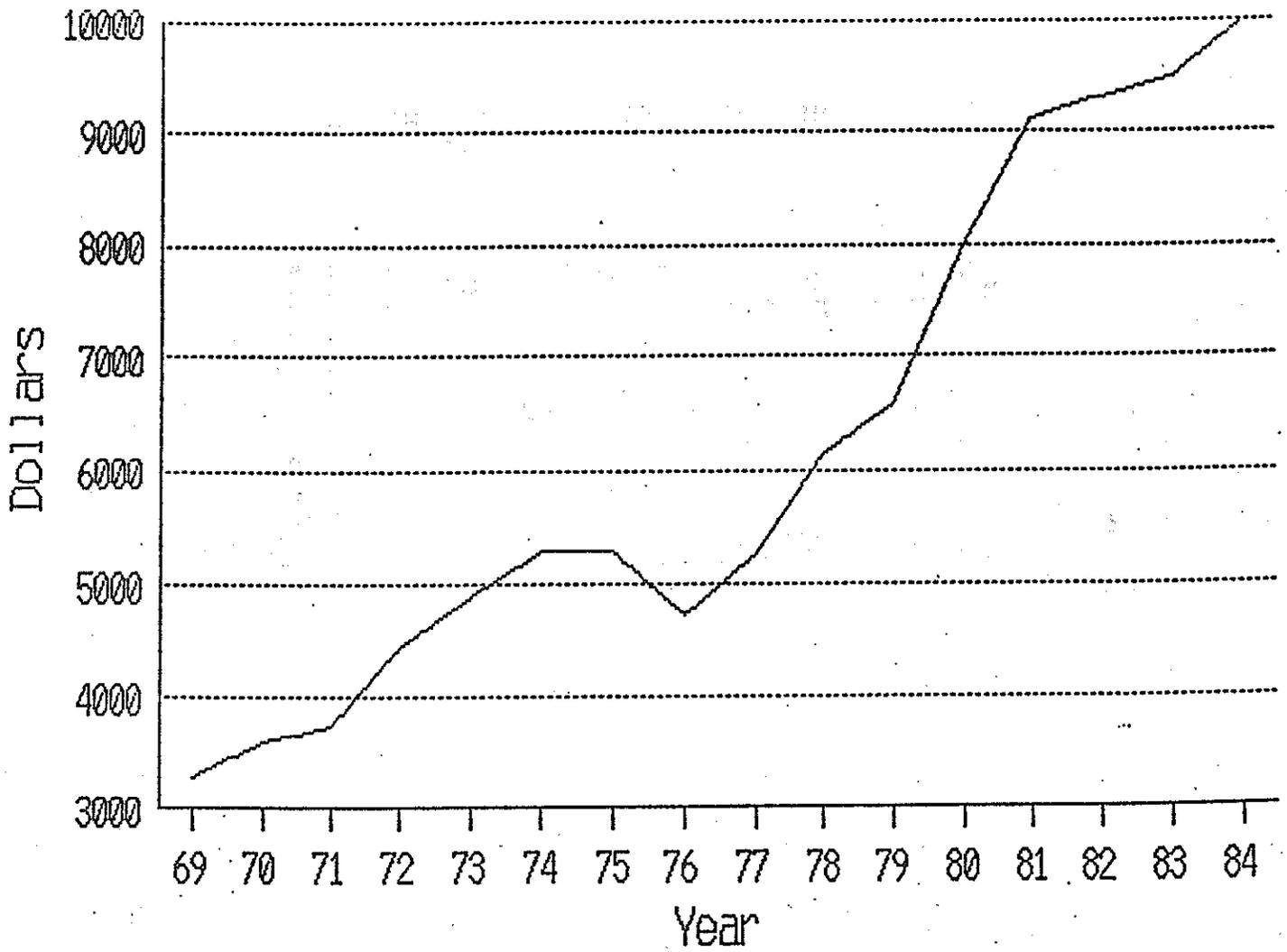


FIGURE 8

Total Personal Income by Major Component Stillwater County 1977-1984									
		(Thousands of Dollars)							
		1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Total personal income		27,288	34,140	37,992	44,816	51,234	54,005	55,952	60,061
Population(persons)		5,200	5,600	5,800	5,600	5,600	5,800	5,900	6,000
Per capita personal income (dollars)		5,278	6,138	6,575	7,986	9,107	9,334	9,459	9,980
Derivation of total personal income									
Total labor income		12,530	16,213	17,079	19,529	21,431	19,320	20,711	22,777
Less: Social Security contributions		804	814	977	1,166	1,349	1,306	1,519	1,789
Plus: adjustment for residence		3,511	5,147	5,821	7,330	7,706	9,150	8,496	7,883
Equals: labor income by place of res.		15,237	20,546	21,923	25,693	27,788	27,164	27,688	28,871
Plus: dividends, interest, and rent		7,329	8,439	10,205	12,231	15,505	17,890	18,260	20,588
Plus: transfer payments		4,722	5,155	5,864	6,892	7,941	8,651	10,004	10,602
Labor income									
Farm		1,492	4,428	3,559	3,809	4,683	3,550	2,817	2,423
Nonfarm		11,038	11,785	13,520	15,720	16,748	15,770	17,794	20,354
Ag. services, forestry, fisheries		335	295	347	405	281	260	405	478
Mining		-166	-159	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Construction		761	830	972	1,760	2,343	869	994	1,215
Manufacturing		1,196	1,344	1,606	1,691	2,178	2,314	2,461	2,988
Transportation and public utilities		(D)	(D)	1,903	2,007	2,114	2,139	2,252	2,542
Wholesale trade		383	411	470	537	612	591	667	707
Retail trade		1,652	1,928	2,159	2,300	2,249	2,361	2,617	2,991
Finance, insurance, and real estate		559	643	691	770	725	1,025	1,099	1,138
Services		(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Government and government enterprises		2,620	2,859	3,152	3,480	3,744	4,057	4,459	4,771
Federal, civilian		374	403	410	483	499	480	534	570
Federal, military		69	79	88	87	91	103	139	151
State and local		2,177	2,377	2,654	2,880	3,154	3,464	3,786	4,050

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System.

Note: (D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information. Estimates are included in totals.
(L) Less than \$50,000. Estimates are included in totals.

April 1986

FIGURE 7

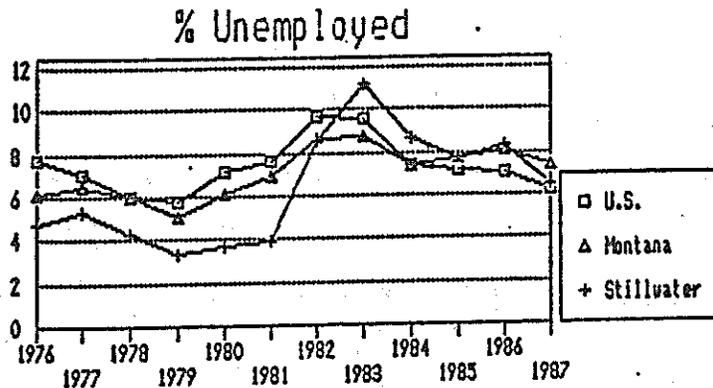
U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration 1980 Census, Run No. 831113 Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory		Report: Socia. Factors for Planning and Evaluation Table Labor Force Status by Sex					Sti. er County Montana	
Data from Census Bureau sample estimates (b)		Total	White Not Hispanic	Black Not Hispanic	Native American Not Hisp	Asian/Pi Not Hispanic	Remaining Races Not Hispanic	Hispanic All Races
Universe: Persons 16 Years and Over								
Total labor force (g)		2,260	2,252		8			
Labor force participation rate (h)		54.3	54.7		17.4			
Civilian labor force		2,260	2,252		8			
Civilian labor force participation rate		54.3	54.7		17.4			
Employed		2,101	2,100		1			
At work full time		1,556	1,555		1			
Percent of employed		74.1	74.0		100.0			
At work part time		477	477					
Unemployed		159	152		7			
Unemployment rate (i)		7.0	6.7		87.5			
16-19 years old		18.8	16.8					
20-24 years old		14.3	14.3					
25 years and over		5.5	5.1		87.5			
Not in labor force		1,974	1,936		38			
Inmate of institution		73	73					
Other		1,901	1,863		38			
Male labor force (g)								
Labor force participation rate (h)		1,475	1,467		8			
Civilian labor force		70.7	71.0		40.0			
Civilian labor force participation rate		1,475	1,467		8			
Employed		70.7	71.0		40.0			
At work full time		1,343	1,342		1			
Percent of employed		1,140	1,139		1			
At work part time		84.9	84.9		100.0			
Unemployed		167	167					
Unemployment rate (i)		132	125		7			
16-19 years old		8.9	8.5		87.5			
20-24 years old		24.6	24.6					
25 years and over		12.8	12.8					
Males not in labor force		7.7	7.2		87.5			
Inmate of institution		639	627		12			
Other		27	27					
		612	600		12			
Female labor force (g)								
Labor force participation rate (h)		785	785					
Civilian labor force		37.8	38.3					
Civilian labor force participation rate		785	785					
Employed		37.8	38.3					
At work full time		758	758					
Percent of employed		416	418					
At work part time		54.9	54.9					
Unemployed		310	310					
Unemployment rate (i)		27	27					
16-19 years old		3.4	3.4					
20-24 years old		10.0	10.0					
25 years and over		17.8	17.8					
Females not in labor force		1.1	1.1					
Inmate of institution		1,335	1,309		26			
Other		48	48		26			
		1,289	1,263		26			

For meaning of symbols, see Introduction. For footnotes and definitions, see Technical Notes.

Data from Census Bureau sample estimates (b)		Total	White Hispanic	White Not Hispanic	Black Not Hispanic	Native American Not Hisp	Asian/Pi Not Hispanic	Remaining Races Not Hispanic	Hispanic All Races
Universe: Persons 16 Years and Over									
Total labor force									
Civilian labor force									
Employed									
16-19 years	2,260	2,252				8			
20-24 years	2,260	2,252				8			
25-29 years	2,101	2,100				1			
30-34 years	109	109							
35-44 years	197	197							
45-54 years	307	306							
55-59 years	301	301							
60-64 years	432	432							
65 years and over	363	363							
Median age in years (j)	151	151							
Unemployed									
16-19 years	111	111							
20-24 years	130	130							
25-29 years	38.2	38.2				27.5			
30-34 years	159	152				7			
35-44 years	33	33							
45-54 years	16	16							
55-59 years	19	12				7			
60-64 years	32	32							
65 years and over	2	2							
Median age in years (j)	17	17							
Total									
32.2									
32.1									
32.5									
Female labor force									
Civilian labor force									
Employed									
16-19 years	785	785							
20-24 years	785	785							
25-29 years	758	758							
30-34 years	63	63							
35-44 years	61	61							
45-54 years	104	104							
55-59 years	109	109							
60-64 years	167	167							
65 years and over	136	136							
Median age in years (j)	37	37							
Unemployed									
16-19 years	29	29							
20-24 years	52	52							
25-29 years	37.5	37.5							
30-34 years	27	27							
35-44 years	7	7							
45-54 years	13	13							
55-59 years	2	2							
60-64 years	2	2							
65 years and over	1	1							
Median age in years (j)	1	1							
Total									
22.5									
22.5									

For meaning of symbols, see Introduction. For footnotes and definitions, see Technical Notes.

- (2) The unemployment rate for Stillwater County is compared with the U.S. and Montana annual average unemployment rates for the years 1976 through 1987 in the graph below. The Stillwater County unemployment rate was below the federal and state unemployment rates until 1983 when the County experienced 11.2% unemployment. More recently the County's unemployment rate is closer to the federal and state rates.



- (3) The principal labor needs of the area are in agriculture, mining, retail trade, manufacturing and government. Increased mining activity in the County has caused a greater demand for skilled labor in hard rock mining in Southern Stillwater County near Nye. The nearest vocational training center is in Billings, which is 40 miles away. The Job Training Partnership Act with on the job training programs is also available in Billings through the Montana Job Service.

C. The Economy

- (1) Exhibit 8 indicates the principal economic activities in Stillwater County in terms of the number employed and Total personal income. Major employers include Montana Silversmiths, Timberweld Manufacturing, Town Pump and Affiliates, Stillwater Mining Company, Stillwater Convalescent Center, Park City Truck Stop, Stillwater County and the Public Schools.
- (2) The total labor force has been increasing since 1985. Town pump and Affiliates and Stillwater Mining Company are now the new major employers contributing to this increase. Montana Silversmiths have also been expanding their labor force the past two years. Several small retail businesses have closed in the past five years but several new ones have opened during this same time period.
- (3) Stillwater County has strong economic ties with Billings, which is a major retail and service center. Many Stillwater County residents are employed in Billings or Laurel, especially Park City Residents. Stillwater County residents also find it convenient to shop in Billings due to short distances and a variety of urban amenities. Health care is available in Stillwater County but a variety of highly

specialized health care and advanced medical technology is also available in Billings.

- (4) Stillwater County has three banks and a Credit Union, which includes 2 Yellowstone Banks (1 in Absarokee and 1 in Columbus). A United Bank in Absarokee and a Valley Credit Union. United Bank of Absarokee is a certified lender for the Montana Economic Development Board, they process SBA loans and act as a lending agent for the Montana Board of Housing. The Yellowstone Bank's process SBA Loans and is a processing agent for the Montana Board of Housing. Quarterly financial reports are available from United Bank of Absarokee, Yellowstone Banks and Valley Credit Union. The following tables provide information on the financial institutions in Stillwater County.

BANKING AND MONETARY STATISTICS, INSURED COMMERCIAL BANKS: JUNE 1980 - 1984

ITEM		1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
*TOTAL ASSETS OF ALL BANKS	(\$1,000)	50,366	48,453	44,182	40,770	36,393
LOANS, NET VALUE	(\$1,000)	24,993	22,236	20,676	20,854	21,231
REAL ESTATE LOANS (PERCENT OF GROSS VALUE)	" "	25.0	24.7	26.5	27.4	26.7
**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION LOANS	" "	51.1	50.2	47.1	48.9	45.4
**COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LOANS	" "	11.9	12.6	13.8	10.9	15.6
PERSONAL EXPENDITURE LOANS	" "	11.5	11.2	10.7	11.2	11.0
ALL OTHER LOANS	" "	0.6	1.2	2.2	1.6	1.2
ALL OTHER ASSETS	(\$1,000)	25,373	26,217	23,506	19,916	15,162
TOTAL LIABILITIES OF ALL BANKS	(\$1,000)	42,953	41,227	38,429	35,822	32,174
TOTAL DEPOSITS	(\$1,000)	42,217	40,288	38,012	35,137	32,060
DEMAND DEPOSITS	(\$1,000)	4,671	4,443	6,835	6,687	7,604
TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS	(\$1,000)	32,452	35,845	31,177	28,450	24,456
ALL OTHER LIABILITIES	(\$1,000)	736	939	417	645	114
***EQUITY CAPITAL OF ALL BANKS	(\$1,000)	7,413	7,226	5,753	4,948	4,219

The 1988 property taxable valuation of Stillwater County was \$17,961,726. This is an increase of \$788,488 in taxable valuation from 1987 which is largely attributable to renewed mining activity.

Of the \$17.96 million taxable valuation, utilities represented \$4.85 million, agriculture \$4.45 million, residential \$3.32 million, mining \$2.15 million and commercial property \$1.21 million (see table below).

Type of Property	Market Value	Taxable Value
Agriculture	57,256,129	4,457,248
Residential	87,331,638	3,326,595
Commercial	16,209,216	1,211,231
Industrial	5,280,161	366,230
Railroad	4,426,441	485,580
Mining	2,364,691	40,117
Gross Proceeds	22,487,566	674,627
Equipment	17,854,674	1,475,066
Utilities	43,81,052	4,857,218

Oil and Gas	847,440	847,440
Other Personnel Property	1,993,820	220,374
TOTAL		17,961,726

Source: Montana Department of Revenue

Map 4 shows taxable valuation by high school districts in the county and shows the change between 1980 and 1988.

The town of Columbus had a taxable valuation of \$1,859,833 in 1988.

<u>Type of Property</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Taxable Value</u>
Agriculture	20,671	718
Residential	19,760,907	758,091
Commercial	8,655,186	334,095
Industrial	2,808,917	93,047
Railroad	186,336	7,193
Mining & Mfg.	1,328,106	146,092
Gross Proceeds Equip.	1,764,935	90,519
Utilities	3,017,307	200,771
Other Personal Property	2,770,202	229,771
TOTAL	40,312,567	1,859,833

Source: Montana Dept. of Revenue

Residential Property represent 41% of Town's taxable valuation followed by commercial property which represents 18% of the taxable value.

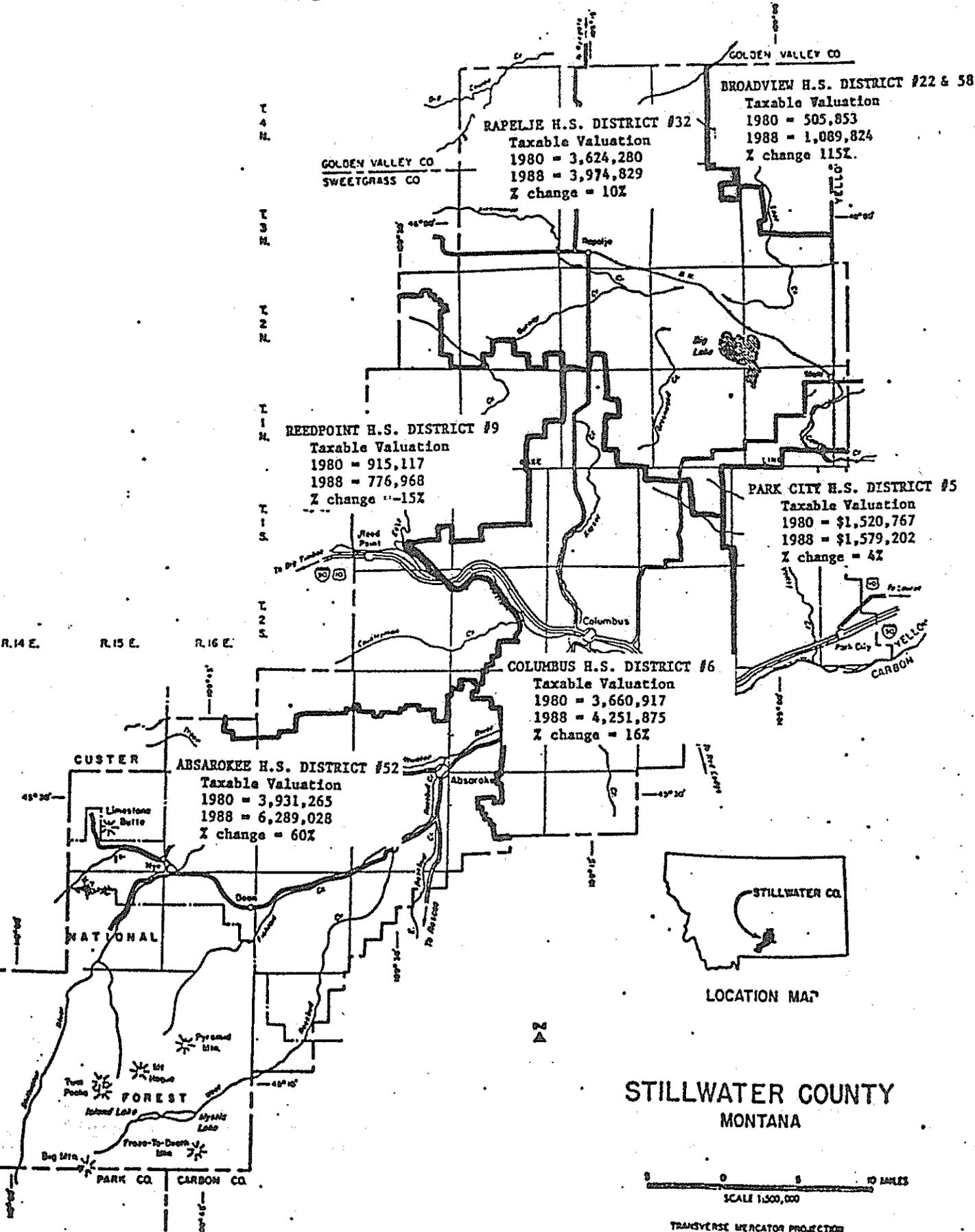
Bonding Capacity

Stillwater County has a general obligation bonding capacity of \$2,020,694 which is 11 1/4% of the total 1988 taxable valuation. The Town of Columbus has a bonding capacity of \$520,767, which is 28% of taxable valuation as allowed by Montana Law.

Stillwater County and the Town of Columbus have no general obligation bonds outstanding at this time. Therefore, both the Town and County have their full legal bonding capacity available to them. However, the Town of Columbus does have \$147,541 outstanding on a water revenue bond, which represents a financial committment for water

MAP 4 TAXABLE VALUATION BY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

R. 17 E. R. 18 E. R. 19 E. R. 20 E. R. 21 E. R. 22 E.



users in Town but will be retired in 1993.

(5) COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

HOUSING

Neither Stillwater County nor the Town of Columbus have completed housing assessments or adopted housing plans since the 1980 Census. Both the Town and County rely on census data for information on the supply and quality of housing. However, 9 substandard structures were identified in the Town of Columbus 1986 Land Use Study. The Montana Department of Commerce Housing point deduction system was used to identify substandard structures which should be considered for removal. The following tables show various housing characteristics in Stillwater County for 1970 and 1980.

TENURE & OCCUPANCY STATUS BY PLUMBING & UTILIZATION CHARACTERISTICS: 1970 AND 1980

ITEM	TOTAL YEAR-ROUND		TOTAL OCCUPIED		RENTER OCCUPIED	
	1980	1970	1980	1970	1980	1970
HOUSING UNITS	2,481	1,881	2,072	1,587	525	442
WITH COMPLETE PLUMBING FOR EXCLUSIVE USE	2,374	1,651	2,032	1,469	509	402
LACKING COMPLETE PLUMBING FOR EXCLUSIVE USE	107	230	40	118	16	40
NO PLUMBING FACILITIES	40	105	18	42	6	11
WITH 1.01 OR MORE PERSONS PER ROOM, LACKING COMPLETE PLUMBING FOR EXCLUSIVE USE	...	...	1	NA	0	NA
TENURE BY PERSONS PER ROOM						
1.00 OR LESS	...	...	2,018	1,471	509	401
1.01 TO 1.50	...	...	46	93	14	35
1.51 OR MORE	...	...	8	23	2	6

TENURE & OCCUPANCY STATUS BY STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS: 1970 AND 1980
(DATA BASED ON SAMPLE)

ITEM	TOTAL YEAR-ROUND		TOTAL OCCUPIED		RENTER OCCUPIED	
	1980	1970	1980	1970	1980	1970
HOUSING UNITS	2,495	1,906	2,072	1,587	525	442
UNITS IN STRUCTURE						
1 UNIT	1,870	1,725	1,541	1,418	335	383
2 UNIT	18	37	15	29	9	6
3 AND 4 UNITS	105	16	88	16	37	16
5 OR MORE UNITS	93	36	76	32	61	26
MOBILE HOMES OR TRAILERS, ETC.	409	92	352	92	83	11
STRUCTURES BY YEAR BUILT						
1979 TO MARCH 1980	84	...	76	...	10	...
1975 TO 1978	389	...	358	...	90	...
1970 TO 1974	292	...	262	...	62	...
1960 TO 1969	214	271	192	223	21	14
1950 TO 1959	258	275	209	253	42	43
1940 TO 1949	182	224	157	187	45	66
1939 OR EARLIER	1,076	1,136	850	924	255	319

NA NOT AVAILABLE.
... NOT APPLICABLE.

Accurate data is not available for new housing starts outside the incorporated Town of Columbus. In Columbus the following new housing starts have been reported since 1980.

1981 - 9
1982 - 4
1983 - 14
1984 - 7
1985 - 1

1986 - 1
 1987 - 1
 1988 - 3

WATER SUPPLY

Absarokee, Columbus and Rapelje presently have central water systems. About 2500 people or around 40 percent of the County's population is being served by the Community Water Systems. The remaining people are served by individual water systems such as wells, springs or cisterns.

Absarokee Water User's Association is a cooperative in which each property owner served by the system purchase a share. Water supply and treatment has been provided since 1954. Absarokee receives its water supply from a series of five active and 3 currently inactive wells. The wells are drilled through a sandstone formation and vary in depth up to 200 feet deep. The existing system of wells is capable of pumping 340,000 gallons per day in the winter months and up to 840,000 gallons per day during the summer. There is a maximum of 325,000 gallons of storage for treated water in two storage tanks. The original 125,000 gallon concrete storage tank is still in service and another 200,000 gallon concrete tank was constructed in 1981. The water distribution system consists of a series of 4 and 6 inch wrapped steel water mains which are suspected of leaking and have limited capacity for fire protection purposes. The primary need is to replace the smaller water mains with larger pipe and fix the leaks in the distribution system.

The Columbus municipal water system is based on a supply of water from a series of radially constructed infiltration galleries located on an island in the Yellowstone River and a well located in the west end of town near Keyser Creek constructed in 1986. These supply sources have a combined capacity of more than 2 million gallons per day. The town has 1.5 million gallons of storage capacity. There are three storage tanks, a large 1 million gallon steel tank constructed in 1973 and the original two smaller tanks. All 3 storage tanks are located on the higher ground north of I-90. The water distribution system consists of a variety of water mains 2 to 12 inches in diameter. The original mains were cast iron, mains installed in the 1960's and 1970's were Asbestos Cement and mains installed after 1973 are polyvinyl chloride (pvc). The primary need is the replacement of the older distribution lines which are leaking.

Rapelje obtains its water supply from a developed spring south of town. One pump currently furnishes water into an 8,000 gallon cistern and must provide constant pressure since elevated storage is not currently available. The water in the Rapelje area is very hard primarily due to the presence of calcium carborates. The distribution system of 4 and 6 inch diameter lines seems to be adequate for the town at this time. The Rapelje Water System is also controlled by a private Water Users Association. They are currently attempting to upgrade their water system by improving the pumping capacity. Two

submersible pumps along with a series of 5 pressure tanks to provide "on demand" pressure in the water system are currently proposed. This is the primary improvement needed at this time.

About 60 percent of the county population are not on the three community water systems. Their water supply is obtained primarily from ground water sources. Adequate supplies of ground water can be obtained from the alluvial deposits along the river valley of the Rosebud, Stillwater, and Yellowstone rivers in the southern half of Stillwater County. The depth and flow volume in these wells vary significantly. The ground water supply in northern Stillwater County can be a problem. water bearing deposits such as the Bearpaw shales and Eagle sandstones produce small quantities of water. Reports on wells in the Rapelje area show an average depth of well around 80 feet with average flows under 10 gallons per minute. The average depth of well in the Molt area is about 135 feet with average flows under 10 gallons per minute.

SEWER SYSTEMS

Absarokee, Columbus and Park City currently have public sewer systems. Over 3500 people or more than 50 percent of the County's population is being served by these community sewer systems. The remaining people are served by individual septic systems.

The Absarokee sewer system is managed by Stillwater County through two rural special improvement districts (RSID #5 and #7). The existing system is an aerated 3 cell lagoon system of only 1.46 acres. Secondary treatment is also provided at this facility through an ultra-violet light system and seven aerators. This treatment system was recently upgraded in 1986-1988 and is designed to serve a population of up to 1200 people. The sewage collection system was constructed in 1954 with additions in 1964 and major improvements in 1978. Asbestos cement, clay tile and pvc pipe are all found in the collection system. The primary need at this time is to replace old sewer mains as needed and to acquire additional land for future expansion of the sewage treatment system.

The Columbus municipal sewer system consists of a collection system constructed around 1940 and a four cell facultative lagoon treatment system constructed around 1970. The collection system consists of 6-12 inch sewer mains and a 15 inch outfall line. Sewer lines are concrete, clay or pvc pipe depending on when they were installed. The treatment system consists of four cells with a total area of 18 acres. Two larger cells of 8 acres each and two smaller cells around 1 acre each. This sewer system is considered to be at capacity now for a current population of 1600. Piping modifications are currently planned for the lagoon treatment facility to develop a more efficient flow through system. Other needs for the improvement of the sewage system include repair or replacement of old sewer mains with serious infiltration problems.

The Park City sewage collection and treatment system was constructed in 1968. This sewer system is managed by Stillwater County through a

rural special improvement district (RSID #8). The system provides service for all areas of town with a network of 8 inch sewer mains with one lift station. The collection system in Park City also contains a variety of pipe including clay, asbestos cement and pvc. The sewage treatment system consists of two cell, five acre lagoon. The RSID owns sufficient land to develop a third cell. This sewer system is considered to have sufficient capacity to serve the current population.

SOLID WASTE

The Town of Columbus provides solid waste collection to the residents within the town corporate limits once a week. Businesses and public facilities receive more frequent collection when necessary. The town has a 16 yard rear loading packer truck for garbage collection and employs two people to handle the job. Columbus does not have an active landfill site at this time. All solid waste collected is disposed of at the Stillwater County Landfill. The Town disposes of about 150 tons of garbage per year.

Stillwater County formed a refuse disposal district in 1975. This district uses a combination of small (4-6 cu. yd.) containers and larger (30-40 cu. yd.) containers to collect solid waste in the unincorporated areas of the county (See map 5). There are almost 200 of the small containers located at 60 sites throughout the county and there are 14 of the larger containers located at 6 sites. The county has two 32 yard front loading packer trucks to collect the smaller containers and two trucks equipped with tilt frame assembly to collect the larger roll off containers and employs 4 people. The county currently operates a Class II landfill 3 miles north of Columbus. Class III landfills at Absarokee, Park City, and Rapelje have been closed out. The county has also hauled garbage to the Billings Landfill and the Livingston resource recovery facility when necessary in the past. Over 2500 tons of garbage is disposed of per year in Stillwater County.

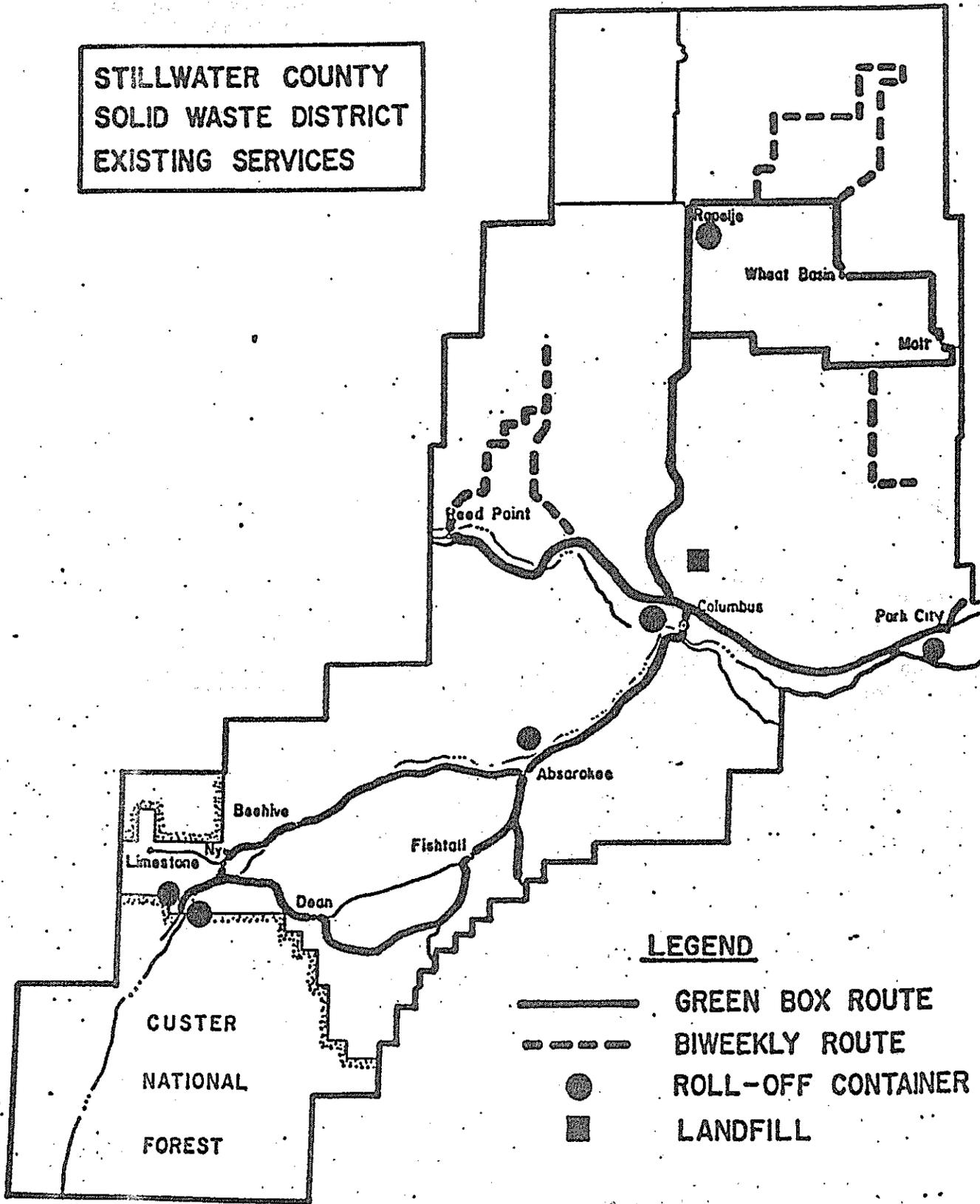
TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Highways and Roads

Interstate 90 is the main east-west route through Stillwater County. This four lane divided highway was completed in 1973. The towns of Columbus, Park City and Reed Point are located along I-90. Each of these communities is served by an interchange. There is also another interchange 8 miles east of Columbus, which is called the Springtime Interchange and a Ranch access between Springtime and Reedpoint. These interchange locations provide opportunities for commercial development.

Old Highway No. 10 is also an east-west route between Park City and the Springtime Interchange. This highway now serves as a frontage road to I-90 and a minor collector to central Stillwater County.

**STILLWATER COUNTY
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
EXISTING SERVICES**



LEGEND

-  GREEN BOX ROUTE
-  BIWEEKLY ROUTE
-  ROLL-OFF CONTAINER
-  LANDFILL

Highway 10 is maintained by the Montana Department of Highways and is the main street (Pike Ave.) for the Columbus Business District. This route parallels the Yellowstone River and has potential for tourist traffic if it could be designated as a scenic route. Old Highway 10 is a 2 lane paved road.

Highway 78, between Columbus and RedLodge, is a federal aid primary, maintained by Montana Department of Highways. This is a paved two lane road which serves as the arterial north-south route in southern Stillwater County. This highway serves as the main street for the Absarokee business district. This route is scheduled for major reconstruction in the early 1990's.

Highway 302, between Billings and Molt, is a federal aid secondary maintained by the County. This is a paved two lane road which serves as a major collector for the Molt area.

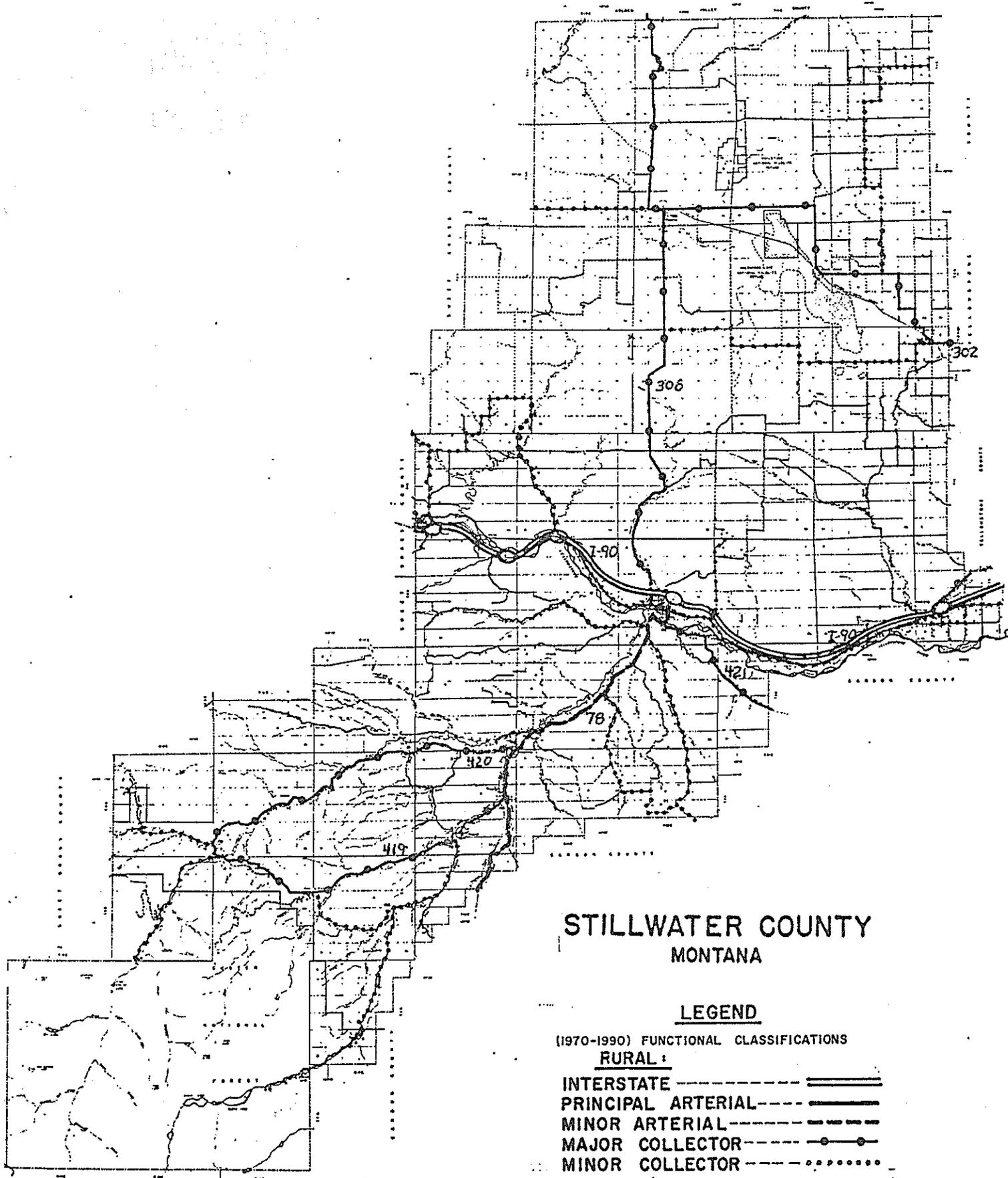
Highway 306, between Columbus and Rapelje, is a federal aid secondary maintained by the County. This is a paved two lane road except for a four mile gravelled section near the southern end of this route. Highway 306 serves as a major north-south collector for northern Stillwater County. The unpaved section is scheduled to be paved in the early 1990's.

Highway 419, between the junction with highway 78 south of Absarokee and Nye is a federal aid secondary route. This section of highway extends beyond the Stillwater Mine and is approximately 28 miles long. This is a paved two lane road in a deteriorated condition. This is one of two east-west major collectors in Southern Stillwater County which accesses the mining region. This route also serves as main street for Fishtail and Nye. Reconstruction of this route is scheduled for the mid 1990's.

Highway 420 is the other east-west major collector in Southern Stillwater County. The first seven miles of this route west of Absarokee are paved two lane and the remaining twelve miles have a gravel surface. This route is becoming increasingly important as access to the mining region in southern Stillwater County.

Highway 421, between Columbus and Joliet, is a federal aid secondary which the county maintains. This is a major collector in east-central Stillwater County. Highway 421 is a paved two lane road except for a four mile section near the county line. Stillwater County intends to surface this section in 1989.

There are numerous other minor collectors and local roads in the county (See map 6). Stillwater County maintains a total of 996 miles of public road. 110 miles are paved and the remaining 886 miles are gravel or dirt. In addition, there are 30 major bridge structures in the county and numerous smaller structures maintained by the county. The county road budget is under \$500,000 and the bridge budget is about \$100,000. This funding level allows for a basic maintenance program only and is insufficient to undertake any major reconstruction projects without federal, state, or private



**STILLWATER COUNTY
MONTANA**

LEGEND

(1970-1990) FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

RURAL :

- INTERSTATE ————
- PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL ————
- MINOR ARTERIAL ————
- MAJOR COLLECTOR ————
- MINOR COLLECTOR ————

assistance. The limitations of the transportation system are an impediment to growth and commerce.

Town Streets

The Town of Columbus has over 16 miles of streets. 12 miles are paved and 4 miles are a gravel surface. There are also almost 6 miles of alleys in Columbus. The Town is in a similar situation as the county with limited funds for maintenance only. Therefore, major street improvement projects are only possible if additional funding becomes available. (See map 7).

Rail Service

Montana Rail Link and Burlington Northern serve Stillwater County. The main rail line parallels the Yellowstone River east-west through the county and communities of Columbus, Park City and Reed Point. There is a loading facility in Columbus and piggy back ramp facilities available in Billings. There are an average of 10 freight trains passing through the County daily.

Bus Service

The Greyhound Bus Company is the only bus line serving Stillwater County. They provide 3 westbound buses and 3 eastbound buses each day. Their route is over Interstate 90 and Highway 10 with scheduled stops at Columbus and Park City and a flagstop at Reedpoint.

Motor Freight Carriers

There are two freight agencies listed in the Billings phone directory, Freight Agency Inc. and Messmer and Associates. These agencies can make arrangements with numerous commercial motor freight operators serving this area. United parcel Service also serves Stillwater County.

Airport Facilities

The only public airport facility in Stillwater County is located in Columbus. The Columbus airport is classified as a secondary facility. There is one 2,600 foot long runway which is sixty feet wide and is paved. Preliminary plans are being prepared to extend the runway by 1400 feet and resurface the existing runway. Taxiways and parking areas would also be paved and the lighting system would be upgraded. The existing airport is basically limited to single engine aircraft.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Stillwater County has five high school districts and eight elementary school districts plus a portion of the Broadview district. There are currently 416 high school students enrolled for the 1988-89 school year and 972 elementary school students enrolled this year for a total enrollment of 1,388 students.

The curriculum for elementary schools includes math, reading, health, writing, language, spelling, social science, physical education, art, music, library and some schools are beginning to offer computer classes. High schools are required to offer a minimum of 18 units consisting of language arts 4 units, American history 1 unit,

American history and democracy 2 units, math 2 units, science 2 units, health & P.E. 1 unit, social sciences 2 units, fine art 1 unit, practical; arts 2 units, elective classes 2 units. Absarokee, Columbus, Park City, and Rapelje high schools offer numerous other elective classes. Special educational services are available to all schools through a county cooperative program.

Absarokee is currently in the process of building a new high school. Columbus is adding a science facility onto their high school plus six new class rooms and a multipurpose room onto the elementary school. Nye elementary built a new classroom in the basement of the school in 1988. Additional information on the schools is provided in the table below.

H.S.'s	Yr. Built	Classrms	Bonds	Students	Teacher
Absarokee	1938, 1954	10	\$1,160,541	126	8.5
Columbus	1968	23	\$415,900	156	21
ParkCity	1977	12	\$168,000	92	10.5
Rapelje	1920	13	-0-	21	12.5
ReedPoint	1919	9	\$27,500	21	5

Elementary Schools

Absarokee	1910, 1921	10	\$175,000	202	14.5
Columbus	1918, 26, 60, 70	13	\$752,000	376	17
Fishtail	1946	3	-0-	47	3
Molt	1960	2	-0-	15	2
Nye	1932	2	-0-	26	2
Park City	1968	8	\$152,000	217	15.5
Rapelje	1920	combined w/ High School	-0-	50	6.5
ReedPoint	1917	3	\$27,500	39	4.5

Most of the school districts also provide bus service as described in the table below.

<u>School Districts</u>	<u>Mi. of Bus Route</u>	<u>No. of Bus Students</u>
Absarokee	258	104
Columbus	331	179
Fishtail	53	34
Park City	107	120
ReedPoint	302	36

INDUSTRIAL PARKS AND MAJOR PLANT SITES

The Town of Columbus owns industrial sites along the Montana Rail Link railroad. There are nine blocks over 2 acres each in size. Four of these blocks are currently leased for the chrome stockpile. There are no improvements to the property at this time but water, sewer and street improvements could be extended to these industrial sites. The railroad siding is a definite asset and there is also an airstrip immediately south of the industrial sites. The lack of facilities and the old EPA superfund site are impediments to growth in this area.

The unincorporated areas of Stillwater County are not zoned, with the exception of the West Fork Stillwater Zone. Therefore, the opportunity for industrial development exists throughout the County. The most desirable locations would be along the paved highways and the Montana Rail Link Rail Road. This rail line passes through Park City, ReedPoint and Columbus.

HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

Stillwater Community Hospital is owned by the County and is leased to the Stillwater Hospital Association, Inc. The hospital has 27 beds, emergency room, laboratory, physical therapy, nursery facilities and expanded outpatient services in a clinic across the street from the hospital. A 7 unit limited care retirement home was added to the hospital in 1986. There are currently 46 employees at the hospital including 3 physicians and 9 nurses. Specialists also visit the hospital as needed.

Two dentists have offices in Columbus and one in Absarokee. These offices are assisted by hygienists and dental assistants. There is also an optometrist in Columbus and another one serving the Absarokee area. One chiropractor resides in Columbus and another one serves Absarokee.

Other emergency medical services include three ambulance services located in Absarokee, Columbus, and Park City. These are volunteer ambulance services with EMT's on each crew. Ambulance service is dispatched through the Sheriff's Department or directly when possible and the ambulance crews carry page beepers with them.

In 1973, a 81 bed convalescent center was constructed in Columbus. This facility is privately owned and offers care for all ages. There are over 80 employees at the Stillwater Convalescent Center including licensed and practical nurses.

South Central Montana Regional Mental Health Center also has a satellite office in Columbus. Out patient services include home visits, emergency services, consultation and education, services to alcoholics and drug abusers, screening and diagnosis, aftercare, services to children and elderly clients are also provided. The staff includes a psychologist and a drug/alcohol counselor.

FIRE PROTECTION

There are three active fire districts in the county and one inactive district. Absarokee, Broadview and Park City have active districts. The Broadview district includes an area in four counties. The Columbus area district is inactive at this time. In addition there are five volunteer fire departments at Molt, Rapelje, ReedPoint, a county wide fire department and the Town of Columbus. The number of Volunteers, buildings and equipment is listed below for each district or fire department.

District/Dept.	Volunteers	Buildings	Equip.
Absarokee	26	leased land 4 bay fire station	1-300 gal brush truck 1-750 gal/w pumper 1-250 gal w/pumper 1-2000 gal tanker
Broadview	26	1 leased bldg. 2 bays	2 pumpers 350 gal 1 tanker 1100
Columbus	14	1 bldg. 3 bays attached to Town Hall	2-750 gal pumpers 3
Molt	12	1 bldg. for 5 trucks	2 tankers 1100 gal 3 pumpers 2-300 gal 1-500 gal
Park City	25	Land & 2 bldgs. 4 bays total	1 pumper 500 gal 3 pickups-350 gal. 2 tankers 2200 & 1600 1 6x6 1000 gal.
Rapelje	22	1 bldg 2 bays land in town	1 pumper 500 gal. 1 jeep 200 gal. 1 4 Wh dr.200 gal.
Reedpoint	7	1 bldg. 1 lg. bay & meeting room	2 pumpers 250 gal each
Stillwater County	12	Leased Bldg. 4 bays	275 gal.pumper 250 gal.pumper 350 gal pumper 1300 gal.pumper
Nye	26	1 acre of land 5 bay fire station	250 gal.pumper 250 gal. fire brush truck 1 6 x 6 1100 gal.

There are Mutual aid agreements among the departments and districts. Stillwater County and the Montana Division of Forestry also have a cooperative equipment agreement. Local fire protection resources are adequate to handle most fires. In the event of major fires, state and federal assistance is requested.

CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The High Schools in Stillwater County provide a variety of cultural activities including athletics, music, speech and drama. Local civic groups also provide a variety of cultural and recreational activities. The Stillwater Historical Society is in the process of developing a museum in Columbus. There are three annual rodeos, the Broken Horn Stampede is held in Absarokee in mid June. The Old Timer's Rodeo is also in Absarokee in mid July and Rapelje has an amateur rodeo on the 4th of July. There are Stillwater River races for kayak's in mid-June and the Yellowstone River Boat Float is the second week in July. Fishtail celebrates summer with a Fishtail Days near the end of July. The 4H and FFA Fair is held in Columbus at the fairgrounds in August. Reedpoint civic groups host a Bachelor Daze each labor day. Absarokee has a Farmer's Market on Labor Day weekend. An arts and crafts fair is held in Columbus at the fairgrounds. In addition to these annual events, many other cultural activities are sponsored by civic and church groups in Stillwater County.

There is also a variety of recreational opportunities in Stillwater County. The Custer National Forest includes property in southern Stillwater County which offers recreational opportunities ranging from primitive to motorized. Primitive recreational opportunities are available in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. There are two major wilderness portals in Stillwater County, the West Rosebud trail and Main Stillwater trail. Over 10,000 visitors have been counted in one year at these portals. There are three developed Forest Service campgrounds within Stillwater County, Woodbine, Emerald Lake and Pine Grove campgrounds. These campgrounds have a combined capacity of 123 units which are accessible by car. A variety of dispersed recreational opportunities are available on the Custer National Forest including hunting, hiking, fishing, backpacking, x-country skiing, mountain climbing, horseback riding, etc. In addition to national forest lands in Stillwater County, there are several tracts of Bureau of Land Management Land, State owned property scattered through the county and two National wildlife refuges in northern Stillwater County. Halfbreed Lake and Hailstone national wildlife refuges are managed by the National Fish and wildlife Service. There are also eleven fishing access sites managed by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks within the County. (See Map 8).

Additional recreational opportunities are available in local community parks. Absarokee has two community parks. Hawkins Park is two blocks from State Highway 78 and contains two tennis courts, picnic facilities and access to Rosebud Creek. Absarokee Pool site has the recently reconstructed swimming pool, two horseshoe courts and picnic facilities. Columbus has four community parks and a golf course. The golf course is a recently remodeled nine hole course with grass greens, clubhouse, fairways, hazards, cart and club rentals. Itch-Kep-Pe Park is located in Columbus along the Yellowstone River and currently has 20 campsites, public restrooms and trash containers. Columbus city park has a swimming pool, two tennis courts, playground equipment, basketball court, and picnic tables.

Pike Avenue park in Columbus is across from the business district with picnic tables, benches and flower beds maintained by the Columbus garden club. Beartooth park is located at the west end of Town along Keyser Creek. This park has 1.6 acres of open space. Park City has a park located north of the interstate exit with large shade trees and picnic tables. Rapelje has 5 dedicated parks in town but only one has been developed with a picnic shelter and horseshoe court.

	Basketball Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Picnic Sites	Playground	Restrooms	Swimming Pool	Tennis Courts	Natural Areas	Historic Site
ABSAROOKEE Hawkins Park Absarooke Pool		X	X X		X X	X	X	X X	X
COLUMBUS Beartooth Park City Park Itch-Kep-Pe Pike Ave. Park	X	X	X X X	X	X X	X	X	X X	
PARK CITY Community Park			X					X	
RAPELJE Public Parks		X	X						

SERVICES FOR LOW-TO-LOW MODERATE INCOME AND AGING

An 81 bed Convalescent Center, 7 unit limited care retirement home and 8 unit FmHA subsidized rental units built in 1985 for senior citizens are located in Columbus. A 32 unit Homestead Lodge apartment facility built in the mid 1970's for senior citizens is located in Absarooke. Stillwater County has also received a HUD grant in the early 1970's for rehabilitation of low income housing units. HRDC furnishes heat assistance, commodities, weatherization grants and food bank assistance.

Stillwater County has a welfare office which provides economic assistance and social services to low income people in cooperation with state and federal programs. The public school system in Stillwater County provides educational opportunities for low and moderate income families and participates in the subsidized lunch program.

Stillwater Community Hospital, Stillwater Convalescent Center and other health care providers in the county participate in the federal

Medicare and Medicaid programs. Senior Citizens are also served by a council on aging. There are Senior Citizen Centers in Absarokee, Columbus and Park City.

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

All eight townsites in Stillwater County have business districts of varying size and condition. The following table indicates the diversity of business activity in each town. The condition of these districts vary. There are old buildings and newer buildings in various levels of repair. Columbus has a main business district and highway commercial developments within the Town Limits along State Hwy. No. 10 (Pike Ave.) and Highway No. 78. (portions of 6th and 9th Streets). The Absarokee Business District is situated along both sides of State Highway No. 78. The Nye and Fishtail business districts are along Highway 419. Park City business district is located south of the railroad tracks and extends to Interstate 90. The Reedpoint business district is along Park Street and extends to the I-90 interchange. Rapelje business district is at the western end of Highway 306.

The financial condition of these small town businesses has fluctuated with the economy. The towns entirely dependent on agricultural trade have had difficulties in the past five years. The towns closer to the mining activity have been more prosperous.

	CAFE	GROCERIES	MOTEL	DRY GOODS	GAS	DRUG STORE	POST OFFICE	HARDWARE	FARM SUPPLY	FLORAL	ELEVATOR	BARBER	BEAUTY	FABRIC SHOP	BARS	CHURCH	APPLIANCE	MACHINERY	AUTO-TRUCK	AUTO REPAIR	BLACKSMITH	ATTORNEY	ACCOUNTANT	INSURANCE	REAL ESTATE	
NYE	1	1	1		2		1								1					1						
FISHTAIL	2	1	1		1		1								2											1
ABSAROKEE	4	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	1		1	3	2	5	1				3	1	2	1	3	5	
COLUMBUS	8	4	3	1	5	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	4	5	9	1	1	1	2	5	2	3	3	4	5	
PARK CITY	1	2	1		2		1							2	2					2						
MOLT		1			2		1		1		1					1										
RAPELJE	1				1		1		2	2						1				1						
REED POINT	1	1			1		1							1	1					1						

(6) OTHER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Stillwater City-County Planning Board has an ongoing planning program in the Town of Columbus and 4 1/2 mile jurisdictional area.

This program consists of subdivision review, public facility projects, hard-rock mining economic impact planning, economic development effort, community planning and assistance with the Towns Zoning Ordinance.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce recently completed the Montana Certified Communities Program. They are currently involved with business retention and expansion, tourism promotion and new business recruitment.

The U.S. Forest Service and Montana Department of State Lands are involved with the permitting of the east side development and expansion of the Stillwater Mine. They will also be involved with American Chrome Corporation mine if they decide to develop a chrome mine in Stillwater County. The Forest Service is also involved in planning activities for the land area within Stillwater County which is on the Custer National Forest.

The Soil Conservation Service works with area farmers and ranchers on individual management plans. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service is involved with plans for the two wildlife refuges in northern Stillwater County.

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SECTION IV

A. POTENTIALS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Mineral Development

The Stillwater Complex is located in the Southern part of the county on the north slopes of the Beartooth Mountains. This layered igneous formation contains the largest known platinum and palladium reserves in the United States. There are numerous mineral claims in the Stillwater Complex and Stillwater Mining Company, a joint venture of Chevron and John-Manville Corp., are currently mining platinum group metals. They are currently mining 700 tons per day and employ 350 people. SMC has proposed to expand their mining operation to the east side of the Stillwater River to bring their production up to 1000 tons per day and employ up to 460 people. SMC is also considering constructing a processor at the mine site which would add additional value to the concentrate.

Sizeable chromite deposits also exist in the Stillwater Complex. The Mouat mine at Mountain View above the SMC operation and the Benbow mine southwest of Dean were developed in the early 1940's. However, mining activity ended after World War II, started up again during the Korean War and ended again in 1961. There is currently a preliminary proposal to reopen the mine at Mountain View. Chrome Corporation of America indicates a potential work force of 250 at a chrome mine and mill operation. Concentrated chromite is used in the production of domestic stainless steel. A refinery to process the chromite may also be considered a potential for economic development in this region.

2. Construction

Housing, school, highway, bridge, sewer and other construction projects will contribute to the economic activity of the County. There is potential for significant construction activity as a result of housing needs and associated infrastructure necessary to serve an increasing population and additional mining activity. Local contractors and building supply businesses will likely benefit from increased construction activity. Additional employment opportunities should also be created during construction.

3. Oil and Gas Production

Stillwater County contains several oil and gas fields. There are producing oil wells in the Dean dome between Nye and Fishtail. There are also producing gas wells in

the Big Coulee field, Rapelje field and Lake Basin field in Northern Stillwater County. Potential development of these reserves depend on supply and demand, prices, national and international markets. There currently are no proposals to increase production of the oil and gas reserves in the County.

4. Agricultural Products

There is some limited potential for seed production, developing certified weed free hay, specialty crops, making feed preparations ready for transport, Ag related entrepreneurship on farms and ranches, establish working guest ranches or game farms, fee hunting, x-mas trees, and developing value added products such as pancake mix, cream of the west cereal, etc. The pure breed cattle industry also shows some promise.

5. Tourism Promotion

Stillwater County has a variety of recreational opportunities, historical, cultural and natural resources which provide potential for further economic development in the recreation/tourism industry. The level of employment and economic activity associated with tourism has not been quantified but plays a role in the County's economy.

Interstate 90 plus the primary and secondary highway network in Stillwater County serve the main street businesses in each of the small communities around the county. The County's proximity to Yellowstone Park and Custer National Forest creates opportunities to promote the area's amenities. There is a potential for entrepreneurs to further develop or expand recreation/tourism related business in the County. The auto/truck plazas along I-90 at the Columbus and Park City interchanges offer fuel, restaurants, convenient stores and a motel for the travelling public. These services can be expanded and Reed Point is a potential site for a similar type auto/truck plaza. There is also a potential for RV campgrounds near interstate interchanges.

Additional potential exists in guided tours, hunting, fishing, horseback or float trips. The Yellowstone and Stillwater Rivers are scenic and challenging float trips. The Beartooth Mountains provide opportunities for fishing, hunting and horseback trips. There may also be potential to develop sports complexes, such as archery, pistol and rifle ranges or Little League and Softball facilities to attract league or tournament play. Additional potential exists in the Columbus area to host smaller workshops or conferences. There are three

meeting rooms in the area capable of accommodating up to 50-60 people and over 60 motel rooms in the area.

6. Manufacturing

The Town of Columbus owns a 20 acre industrial park which is currently undeveloped. If there industrial sites were cleaned up and water, sewer and street improvements made, then the property would be more marketable to private manufacturing interests. These sites have railroad frontage and are less than one mile from Interstate 90. There is the potential to sell or lease these sites individually or any combination of the nine blocks. However, four of the blocks are currently leased for the chrome stockpile.

7. Water Development

The potential exists for a major water storage project in the Valley Creek drainage northwest of Park City. This would require the construction of an impoundment facility and the means to transport water from the Yellowstone River into the reservoir during periods of peak flow. The reservoir would then have a potential water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial and recreational uses. However, a water development project of this size would require a significant investment of federal and state funds, which is unlikely at this time.

8. Solid Waste Recycling

There may be limited potential for a small recycling business to utilize some of the solid waste collected in Stillwater County. A recycling business could be operated in cooperation with the County Landfill operation north of Columbus. There may also be a potential for the development of a small waste to energy system.

B. POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS

1. Natural Hazards

Numerous areas in Stillwater County are unsuitable for development because of flooding, landslides or rockfalls, unstable soils, steep slopes in excess of 25% grade, high water table conditions or lack of potable water supply.

2. Transportation System

Several bridges in Stillwater County have restrictive load limits, are single lane or have difficult approaches to them. Two bridges have failed in the past

five years. With the size of modern farm machinery and increasing truck traffic associated with mineral development, these older bridges present problems and constraints for future development.

The road system also has numerous problems and constraints. Only about 10% of the County roads are paved. Those that are paved are aging and beginning to show signs of serious deterioration in some cases. Some of the main routes are narrow, have dangerous curves and are without shoulders. Many sections of County roads do not have recorded rights-of-way or easements to further complicate the situation. Local funds are insufficient to correct the problems. It will require federal, state or private funds.

3. Lack of Improved Industrial Sites

It is difficult to attract a prospective business to an industrial area which does not have improved roads, water or sewer serving the sites. The Columbus industrial sites have railroad frontage and are located less than a mile from Interstate 90 but there are no improvements to the industrial sites. There are no other designated industrial sites in the County.

4. Water and Sewer Systems

Each of the community water and sewer systems in Stillwater County have capacity constraints and problems. The Absarokee and Columbus water systems have problems with older distribution lines which need to be replaced. The Rapelje water system needs improved pumping capacity and pressure tanks. The Columbus sewer system is at capacity, while the Absarokee and Park City sewer systems are nearing capacity. The cost of expanding, repairing or upgrading these water and sewer systems is a constraint on future development.

5. External Constraints

In a recent survey of the Columbus business community the businessmen in the area listed the difficulty of obtaining investment capital, high cost of liability insurance, workers compensation rates and the State's tax structure as constraints to further economic development in the area. Stillwater Mining Company has also experienced significant delays in the permitting process. These are national and state wide problems from legislative or policy decisions beyond local influence.

SECTION V
STILLWATER COUNTY
OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Development Strategy

Our multi-year economic development strategy includes continued public-private cooperation among local governments, civic organizations and private enterprises. We will use the organizational structure of the Overall Economic Development Committee to implement the program. Development programs, activities, and projects will be assessed with identified assumptions regarding trends in the areas economy, economic development goals and objectives, and general criteria.

Assumptions

The economic outlook for the Stillwater County economy is mixed. The agricultural sector is expected to remain variable according to supply and demand. Cattle numbers will increase from 43,000 if the drought conditions of the past five years end. However, cattle prices are up this year. Sheep numbers are leveling off around 14,000 head. Sheep and wool prices are expected to remain favorable. Wheat prices are expected to remain fairly stable around 4 dollars per bushel. The wheat harvest has been down because of the drought but winter wheat crops have been up. This condition will remain variable with the weather. Other crop harvests will be variable with the weather and prices are expected to be variable with supply and demand.

Trends in the Tourism industry are difficult to assess but state wide statistics indicate tourism activity is increasing and is expected to continue to increase with state promotional efforts.

The mining sector is expected to continue to increase in production, employment and income. This is expected to be the fastest growing sector in the county economy over the next 5 years as production at the SMC platinum/palladium mine increases and exploration for chromium begins again.

Construction, Retail trade, Services, Finance, insurance and real estate are all expected to improve in the southern half of Stillwater County along with the mining activity. Manufacturing, wholesale trade and government services are expected to remain about the same. Federal and state transfer payments play a significant role in the county economy. These payments have been increasing each year and this trend is expected to continue but at a lower annual rate.

The major cause of the areas economic problems is the decline in profitability of the agricultural sector. This has also led to problems in main street businesses in most townsites around the county. Increasing competition from Billings, a major metropolitan center, also causes economic problems for main street businesses. The oil and gas industry has also been in decline and there are no

indications of a turn around soon.

Mining and Service Sectors of the economy have the greatest potential for generating additional employment and income. Construction, retail trade and manufacturing also have some potential for generating additional employment and income.

The Absarokee area and southern Stillwater County is expected to have the greatest potential for growth and development, followed by Columbus then Park City and possibly Reedpoint.

Goal and Objectives

Ultimate Goal

To provide a method for guiding and coordinating the efforts of local governments and civic organizations concerned with the economic development of the County for the purpose of creating a more stable and diversified economy with new employment opportunities to increase personal income and expand the local tax base.

Long Term Goal

1. Encourage the development and economic use of natural Resources in the county especially minerals and agricultural products. Appropriate conservation measures are also endorsed for soil, water and other significant natural resources.
2. Work with existing businesses and industry having expansion plans and actively seek new businesses interested in the county. Inform prospects of advantages of locating in the county and assist with financial arrangements for infrastructure or site development whenever possible.
3. Promote the County to attract new business, industry and visitors to increase economic activity. Cooperate with civic groups in the county on all promotions and public relation efforts.

Short Term Goals

1. Establish an Overall Economic Development Committee with broad representation and involvement in the program. The committee will prepare a historical assessment of past development efforts, summarize and analyze the area and its economy, identify potentials for economic development, decide an economic development strategy, prepare annual plans for implementation, prepare annual Overall Economic Development Reports, and keep county residents informed of program plans and accomplishments.

2. Determine additional needs for community facilities and services. Study existing road system, water supply, sewer facilities, industrial parks, health care services, fire protection, parks and recreation, and the adequacy of housing necessary to support economic development.
3. Identify continuing education and training needs for the county workforce, unemployed, underemployed, and identify organizational structure necessary to meet these needs. Involve all appropriate organizations to coordinate this effort.

Criteria to guide resource utilization

1. Projects which support basic industries such as mining, agriculture and other exporting industries will be given the highest priority. The unemployed or underemployed will benefit from new job opportunities. Agriculture is county wide and not limited to a specific geographic location. Mining is located in Southern Stillwater County. Major Manufacturing enterprises are located in Columbus. Economic development projects will be sponsored by Stillwater County or the Town of Columbus.
2. Projects which improve the County transportation system will be given high priority. The unemployed or underemployed could benefit from construction jobs or secondary employment opportunities. The geographic location of these projects would be on the primary and secondary transportation corridors serving the mining region of the county and other major transportation routes.
3. Projects which offer training or retraining for unemployed or underemployed residents of the county will be given a moderate priority. These projects may be for any type of business and in any part of the county. Stillwater County or Federal/State job Training Programs would be the likely sponsors for the projects.
4. Project which provide solutions to our infrastructure problems will be given high priority. Construction job opportunities will benefit unemployed or underemployed. Most businesses could potentially benefit from these projects. Infrastructure projects would primarily be located within townsites. Infrastructure projects will be sponsored by Stillwater County or the Town of Columbus.
5. Value added projects which enhance locally produced commodities will be given a high priority. The unemployed or underemployed would benefit from new job opportunities. These projects may be located in any part of the County and would likely be focused on agricultural commodities, timber products, or processing of mineral concentrates.

6. Projects which promote the county to increase tourism or attract new industry to the area will be given a moderate priority. The unemployed or underemployed could benefit from added job opportunities. Most service sector and retail businesses would potentially benefit. Projects of this type will likely be located along the interstate or in Columbus.

STILLWATER COUNTY OEDP COURSE OF ACTION
Projection of Programs, Activities and Projects

First Year Program (1989-1990)

STILLWATER COUNTY

1. Project Description: Replace Absarokee Bridge over Rosebud Creek

The Absarokee bridge is located on Rosebud Creek immediately west of Absarokee. This bridge is less than 16 feet wide, is 98 feet long and is over 40 years old. This one lane bridge can no longer handle increased volumes of traffic and oversized/overweight vehicles. The bridge is posted with a 10 ton limit and is considered a safety hazard.

This bridge needs to be replaced and will benefit agricultural, mining and tourist traffic in the Absarokee area.

Estimated Cost: \$369,000

Funding Sources: On System Bridge Funds 80% federal 20% state

Relevant Goals: Short Term No. 2

2. Project Description: Complete paving of Joliet Road FAS 421

The Joliet road is a minor arterial between Columbus and Joliet. This route is receiving an increasing amount of traffic and there have been numerous accidents on the unpaved section. The unpaved section is about 4 miles long and is located at the Stillwater County/Carbon County line.

Paving this section of road will benefit agricultural, truck, and tourist traffic in this area.

Estimated Cost: \$65,000

Funding Sources: County Road Funds, Gas Tax

Relevant Goals: Short Term No. 2

3. Program Description: Promotion and Public Information

Neither the Town of Columbus nor Stillwater County have had organized promotion or public information programs in the past. This program would include informational brochures, promotional maps, displays, logos, and other public information efforts as needed for the tourism sector of the local economy.

This program is intended to benefit the entire county and create a more positive community image for tourism promotion.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000/year

Funding Source: Local funds, Planning Dept.

Relevant Goals: Long Term Goal No. 3

4. Program Description: Local Coordination of JOBS Program

New federal law requires states to implement the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program (JOBS) by 1990. As a result there may need to coordinate economic development efforts with this welfare reform. Organizational ties between the business community, local schools and the county welfare program need to be developed in order to effectively implement the JOBS program.

After Local Coordination is achieved and organizational ties are established, the unemployed or underemployed can benefit directly from training programs and other JOBS program features. This program is also intended to help provide a trained labor force which all prospective employers can benefit from.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Funding Sources: County Welfare Dept., Private Contributions

Relative Goals: Short Term Goal No. 3

5. Program Description: County Transportation Plan

The transportation system was identified as a constraint to economic development in the County. The County does not have a transportation plan to establish goals, objectives, functional classifications, priorities, road and bridge standards or funding options. The county is experiencing increasing difficulty in meeting the needs/demands for improved roads and bridges in relation to the financial resources available for this purpose.

Given the magnitude and complexity of this problem, it is recommended that a transportation plan be prepared to sort out the problems, evaluate alternatives, and provide more specific

recommendations.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Funding sources: Planning Dept. and Road Dept.

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 1 and short term No. 2

TOWN OF COLUMBUS

First Year Program (1989-1990)

1. Project Description: Upgrade Columbus Sewage Treatment System

The Columbus sewage treatment system has an inefficient flow pattern, seepage from the ponds, inadequate detention time, erosion of dikes, corrosion of distribution gates and an organically overloaded condition which have resulted in discharge permit violations in the past.

Piping modifications to achieve a more efficient flow through the lagoon system has been recommended. Flow metering stations need to be installed to monitor influent and effluent flow. The existing distribution box and the west side of the interior dike will also be repaired.

This project will benefit the entire community and allow for additional growth and development in Columbus.

Estimated Cost: \$173,000

Funding Sources: SMC Mine Impact Funds

Relevant Goals: Short Term No. 2

2. Project Description: Expand Itch-Kep-Pe Park

Twenty campsites were recently developed in Itch-Kep-Pe Park with gravelled parking spaces, semi-permanent concrete and wood picnic tables and iron campfire grills at each site. The park was in despair but is now in a useable condition. Existing restrooms, road system, boat ramps, garbage containers site and a parking area are already in place. In addition the Town of Columbus recently received an additional 26 acres from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

This project would increase the total number of campsites to 49 which includes 10 additional campsites in the upper park and developing 19 campsites in the lower park acquired from FW & P. Gravel parking spaces, semi-permanent picnic tables and iron campfire grills will be installed at each site. This project will benefit local area residents but is primarily intended to promote tourism in the Columbus area.

Estimated Cost: \$9,000

Funding Source: Local Recreation Funds, Donations, LWCF Grant

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 3 and Short Term No. 2

3. Program Description: Capitol Improvements Plan

Several infrastructure features were identified as constraints to economic development in Columbus. The Town does not have a Capital Improvements Plan to establish goals, objectives, priorities or identify funding options. The Town is experiencing increasing difficulty in meeting the needs for operating, maintaining, and/or expanding the Town's Infrastructure (water, sewer, streets, sidewalks, curb and gutter, parks and solid waste.)

Given the scope of this program and expense of meeting all the needs for the Town's infrastructure, it is recommended that a Capital Improvements Plan be prepared to sort out the problems, evaluate alternatives, identify funding options and provide more specific recommendations. It is further recommended that this be a cooperative effort with the Town Public Works Dept. and the Planning Office.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Funding Sources: Public Works Dept. and Planning Office

Relevant Goals: Short Term No. 2

4. Project Description: Master Plan for Columbus Industrial Sites

The Columbus Industrial Sites were identified as an opportunity for economic development. There are nine blocks in the industrial park containing over 20 acres. These sites have railroad frontage and are less than one mile from Interstate 90. The stockpile of chrome concentrate currently occupies four blocks. There may be possibilities for a loading facility at this site if the chrome mines reopen and the mining company decides to truck chrome concentrate to Columbus and transfer it to trains for further shipping.

However, there are no streets, water sewer or other improvements serving the industrial sites. The preparation of a Master Plan for the Columbus Industrial Sites is recommended to determine the general layout and extent of essential improvements needed to serve future industrial development in this part of Town. The recommended plan is intended to evaluate existing conditions, identify alternatives, estimate costs, list possible funding sources and recommend a course of action.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Funding Sources: Columbus Public Works Dept. and Planning Dept.

Relevant Goals: Short term No. 2, Long Term No. 2

Multi - Year Program (1991-1995)

STILLWATER COUNTY

1. Project Description: Reconstruct FAS 419

This route is 28 miles long and is a major east-west collector in southern Stillwater County serving the mining region. FAS 419 is narrow with dangerous curves. The traffic on this route has been increasing with the mineral development.

Two bridges and the east one half mile of this route are scheduled for reconstruction in 1990-91, two bridges in Fishtail are scheduled to be replaced in 1991-92 and the remainder of the route is scheduled for reconstruction in 1993-96. The County is responsible for Right-of-Way Acquisition and providing the source of gravel for this project. This project will benefit the local residents along the route as well as recreationalists visiting the area and mine employees working in the Stillwater Complex. Traffic safety will be greatly improved.

Estimated Cost: \$8,100,000

Funding Sources: Forest Highway Funds, State Secondary Bridge Funds, SMC Impact Funds, County Road Funds

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 1 and No. 2
Short Term No. 2

2. Project Description: Complete realignment/paving of Rapelje Road FAS 306

One bridge structure would be replaced and a four mile unpaved section of road needs to be realigned and paved. This route serves as a major north-south collector between Columbus and Rapelje in northern Stillwater County. FAS 306 is also an important route for grain truck traffic due to the abandonment of the railroad branch line to Rapelje.

Construction on this project is currently scheduled for 1991. This project will benefit the residents along the route as well as the agricultural interests in northern Stillwater County.

Estimated Cost: \$1,860,000

Funding Sources: Secondary Road Funds and Secondary Bridge Funds

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 1 and No. 2
Short Term No. 2

3. Project Description: State Reconstruction of FAP 78

Approximately 19 miles of primary highway 78 between Columbus and the intersection with FAS 419 is in need of reconstruction. This is a two lane paved road which is narrow with numerous hills, dangerous curves and accident rates in excess of state averages. This route is the north-south arterial for southern Stillwater County. FAP 78 serves mine related traffic along with agricultural traffic, local residents, commuters, and tourist/recreational traffic.

Environmental assessment work on this project and public hearings should be completed in 1990. After all review and approvals, utilities relocated, and rights-of-way are acquired, the project is expected to be ready for bidding in late 1991. A contract is not expected to be awarded until 1992. It will be in Stillwater County's interest to cooperate with the Department of Highways, their engineering consultants and contractors to facilitate this project and minimize impacts during construction.

Estimated Cost: \$12,798,000

Funding Sources: Federal and State Primary Road and Bridge Funds

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 1 and No. 2
Short Term No. 2

TOWN OF COLUMBUS

Multi Year Program (1991-1995)

1. Project Description: Columbus Airport Improvements

The existing runway is only 2600 feet long which is inadequate for twin engine aircraft. The asphalt on the runway is aging, paved taxiways and parking areas is needed along with an improved lighting system to accommodate twin engine aircraft.

A master plan is currently being prepared for the Columbus airport to evaluate the facility, identify alternative solutions and cost estimates.

Estimated Cost: \$568,000

Funding Sources: FAA grants, Columbus Airport Funds, EDA

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 2, Short Term No. 2

2. Project Description: Develop the Columbus Industrial Park

The Columbus Industrial Park is currently without any infrastructure. There is a need to develop street access and extend water and sewer lines to the industrial sites. Many

businesses are unwilling to locate to a site without these basic improvements. There may be a possibility of further developing a loading facility at this site in cooperation with the proposed Chrome Corporation development.

Improvement to the Columbus Industrial Sites would provide an incentive for industries to locate in Columbus, potentially increase employment opportunities and promote diversification of the local economy.

Estimated Cost: \$350,000

Funding Sources: EDA, Columbus Industrial Park Funds CDBG

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 2, Short Term No. 2

3. Project Description: Replace Columbus Cast iron waterlines

There are approximately 42 blocks of old cast iron water lines in Columbus. There has been a recurring problem with water line breaks. This is an indication of continued deterioration in the system.

There is a definite need to replace deteriorated cast iron water lines, install additional valves and grid the system to insure more dependable service. The entire town including residential, commercial, industrial and public property depends on a reliable water supply. It is an essential service and the economic well being of the community depends on it.

Estimated Cost: \$628,700

Funding Sources: EDA, CDBG, Revenue Bonds, SID,
INTERCAP Loans, Water Replacement funds, DNRC

Relevant Goals: Short Term No. 2

4. Project Description: Columbus Recreational Development

The town leased 35 acres of state lands immediately north of 6th Ave. in 1988 for a recreational use. This is a 10 year renewable lease. Currently Little League, Senior League, and Softball fields are being proposed for the site along with a soccer field, jogging/walking trail and possibly a bicycle tract. This project would also include street access, an irrigation system and restroom facilities.

Recreational developments in Columbus play an important role in the community and contribute to the economic activity in the area. This project is intended to be phased over several years and involve all Columbus Civic Organization willing to participate.

Estimated Cost: \$100,000

Funding Sources: LWCF Grant, Private Donations, Local
Recreation Funds, BN Foundation, RIT Grants

Relevant Goals: Long Term No. 3, Short Term No. 2

SECTION VI
ONE YEAR PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION (1989-1990)

Description of Major Work Elements for the OEDP Committee

- I. The OEDP Committee will make the following recommendations to Stillwater County Commissioners
 1. To Replace Absarokee Bridge over Rosebud Creek
 2. To Complete paving of Joliet Road (FAS 421)
 3. To Develop an Industrial Committee to implement JOBS program
 4. To prepare a County wide Transportation Plan
 5. To promote Tourism and provide public information

- II. The OEDP Committee will make the following Recommendations to the Columbus Town Council
 1. To Upgrade Columbus Sewage Treatment System
 2. To Expand Itch-Kep-Pe Park
 3. To prepare a Capital Improvements Plan for the Town
 4. To Prepare a Master Plan for Columbus Industrial sites

- III. The OEDP Committee Will Monitor Economic Conditions of Stillwater County.
 1. Labor Statistics
 2. Population Projections
 3. Taxable Valuations
 4. Available financial resources
 5. Identify opportunities for economic development
 6. Contacts with business prospects

- IV. The OEDP Committee will Prepare an Annual OEDP Report and Program Projections
 1. Report changes in OEDP Committee
 2. Report of past years activities
 3. Review and Analyze changes in the economy
 4. Identify new development potentials and problems
 5. Review and/or Revise Development Strategy and Plan for Implementation