

SAN JUAN COUNTY LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLAN



FACT SHEET

- In 2007, San Juan County's Board of County Commissioners accepted a plan for management of growth in the County.
- The Growth Management Plan, developed by a citizen Blue Ribbon Committee along with other professional assistance, identified a number of land use issues and made recommendations as to how to best guide future growth in the county.
- As part of the Growth Management Plan's implementation, the County is conducting a year-long series of public meetings to discuss the plan's land use recommendations with the public and determine how the County should manage future development in the unincorporated areas to protect residents' quality of life and economic opportunities.

Growth Management Plan Findings

- To ensure broad public support for the Growth Management Plan, the County conducted 2 Town Hall Meetings, 10 sub-area meetings, open meetings of the Blue Ribbon Committee, and widely distributed a citizen survey that received over 2,800 responses.
- The plan found that the citizens of San Juan County treasure their quality of life, job opportunities, the people, the climate, scenery, nice communities, and rural lifestyles.

The plan also identified the following land use concerns:

- County residents are most concerned about the physical appearance of the county, trash and junk, insufficient affordable housing, the crime rate, drugs, and county roads.
- Residents expressed a need to maintain agriculture in the valleys, offer incentives for farmers to continue agricultural practices, and guide development to areas away from agricultural lands.
- The County needs to attract more businesses and industries, and do more to guide growth by implementing land use regulations such as zoning and subdivision guidelines.
- The County needs to find ways to make water and sewer system improvements, combat illegal dumping, provide cleaner air, and reduce crime, without increasing property taxes.

The 2009 Citizen Survey identified the following concerns:

- 75% of County residents believe that it is essential or very important for the County to make efforts to guide or control growth.
- Over 75% of County residents responded that run-down buildings, weed lots, or junk vehicles are a moderate or major problem in San Juan County.
- 60% of County residents rated the overall appearance of San Juan County as fair or poor.



San Juan River east of Farmington

County Facts:

Population Growth

- In 2000, the county's population was about 113,000 people.
 - 33,640 people or 30% lived in the unincorporated County
 - 11,815 persons or 35% lived in Crouch Mesa or Kirtland
- Between 2000 and 2005, the county's population grew to over 126,000, which is a gain of 13,000 residents—or 2.3% per year.
- San Juan County's estimated 2007 population was 128,884.

Residential Growth

- Residential building permits in the unincorporated areas of San Juan County have been steadily increasing since 2000.
- Between 2000 and 2008, San Juan County issued 929 residential building permits in the unincorporated areas—this equals a percentage increase of over 35%.
- 200 commercial building permits were issued in the unincorporated area over the same time period for a percentage increase of 29%.

Employment and Economy

- According to the San Juan Economic Development Service, the Oil & Gas industry employs 5,031 people.
- In 2007, San Juan County produced 40% of the State's natural gas and represents 10% of nation's supply.
- The San Juan Basin gas area is the largest proven natural gas reserve in the United States

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2009 Citizen Survey Findings (Continued):

- Less than 40% of County residents believe that the County's efforts to preserve natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts are good or excellent.

To develop the Land Use Management Plan, the County and Sites Southwest will be embarking on a year-long series of public meetings to discuss land use issues and find out more about residents, business and property owners' concerns and values as the County decides the best approach to meeting the needs identified in the citizen survey and growth management plan. Meetings will be held in the following locations to get community input:

Blanco/Navajo Dam

Monday, August 17, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
Blanco Senior Center
7338 US Hwy 64, Blanco, NM

Flora Vista

Monday, August 24, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
Flora Vista Fire Station #1
2 CR 3275, Flora Vista, NM

La Plata

Tuesday, August 18, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
La Plata Community Center
1438 NM Hwy 170, La Plata, NM

Kirtland/Waterflow

Tuesday, August 25, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
Valley Fire Station #1
4105 US Hwy 64, Kirtland, NM

Cedar Hill/Centerpoint

Wednesday, August 19, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
Cedar Hill Fire Station #1
4 CR 2343, Aztec, NM

Crouch Mesa

Wednesday, August 26, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
McGee Park Multi Use Building
41 CR 5568, Farmington, NM

Lee Acres

Thursday, August 20, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
McGee Park Multi Use Building
41 CR 5568, Farmington, NM

All County Areas

Thursday, August 27, 2009
6:00-8:00pm
County Administration Building
100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, NM

For more information visit: <http://sanjuancountypanning.com>,
or contact Mike Stark, San Juan County Project Manager: (505) 334-4582

Sources:

- 2007 San Juan County Growth Management Plan
- 2009 San Juan County National Citizen Survey
- U.S. Census Bureau Website: www.census.gov
- San Juan Economic Development Service Website: www.sanjuaneds.com
- UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research Website, NM County Population Estimates: <http://bber.unm.edu>

County Facts (continued):

Land Resources

- San Juan County consists of over 5,552 square miles of land.
 - Indian Reservations—3,600 square miles or 65%
 - Federal Land—1,402 square miles or 25%
 - State Land—190 square miles or 4%
 - Private Land—359 square miles or 6%
- Of the 6% of Private land in San Juan County, 308 square miles—or 5%—is located in the unincorporated area.

County Clean-Up Program

- A voluntary program designed to assist those landowners who are not physically or financially able to remove substantial amounts of refuse from their property with the help of inmate labor.
- Since inception of the program in January of 2006, over 373 cleanups have been conducted resulting in 18,539 cubic yards of trash delivered to the landfill or over 2 miles of 30 yard containers stacked end to end.

Since the Growth Management Plan was adopted in 2007, many letters to the Farmington Daily Times have expressed frustration about the impact of current development on the county's quality of life, residential property values, and the County's environment.