

Mammoth/San Manuel Road Show Summary Report

Date: July 16, 2007 (Monday)
Time: 7 – 8:30 pm
Location: San Manuel High School

Handouts

The Future at Pinal executive summary
Comprehensive Plan Fact Sheet
Road Show Questionnaire

Attendees (15)

Victoria Barton, Ernest Bustamante, Jo Buttery, Bernadette Cuevas, Linda Kadlecek, Robert Longaker, Wendy Lotze, Brian Pugh, Larry Ramirez, Ron Rickel, Pete Rios, Bob and Pauly Skiba, Diane Theobald, Frances Wickham

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the Road Show event was threefold: introduce the public to the Comprehensive Plan process, discuss the results of the Morrison Institute *The Future at Pinal* report, and to begin a dialogue on the vision for Pinal.

After a brief exercise which identified how long attendees had been residents of Pinal County, the year-long Comprehensive Plan process and current status were presented to the group. Additionally, results from the Morrison Institute were shared, including growth figures, land ownership percentages, and employment data.

Attendees were then asked to share how they answered Section 1 of the questionnaire. The following items were shared:

What ONE thing do you value most about Pinal County?

- Scenery
- Rural atmosphere—nearest traffic light 30 miles away
- Unique
- Lots of open space
- Running water—still have it
- History, culture
- Sense of community—we depend on each other

What ONE thing do you not want to lose in Pinal County?

- Country atmosphere—not incorporated
- Identity—unique places
- Control

What ONE major change have you seen in Pinal County?

- Too much government
- Traffic increase

- Population increase
- Too many rooftops, not enough infrastructure
- County is more organized
- Loss of copper industry
- More commuting due to a loss of jobs

Participants were then shown results of a peer county analysis. Polk County, Florida, Cobb County, Georgia and Arapahoe County, Colorado were chosen as “peer” counties for their rapid growth over the past 20 years, that they were impacted by rapid growth in neighboring metro areas, contained an urban/agricultural/open space interface, had preservation issues and served in some capacity as a “bedroom community.” After lessons learned were shared from these three counties, participants were asked what Pinal County should take away from the counties experiences:

- All important
- Comprehensive planning needed urgently
- Divide county into two: should east/west be divided?
- Are impact fees really the answer?
- “What about Mammoth?” Can all needs be met?
- This part of the County is feeling left out.
- Be careful of splitting county.
- Where is the assessed valuation in the County
- Are there ways to do creative planning that suits our unique areas?
- Work to unify urban/rural, east/west county.
- County/municipalities must work together
 - Transportation
 - Must continue dialogue—must talk to each other

Finally, a presentation of the Morrison Institute’s six “placemaking goals” was given to participants, after which attendees were asked what each placemaking goal meant to them:

#1: Distinguishing Pinal from Maricopa County and Pima County.

- Don’t repeat mistakes.
- Adhere to common sense.
- Keep history alive and in forefront.

#2: Protect miles of desert land and open space.

- Pioneer Parkway—open places to drive
- Don’t build up the mountainsides.
- Explore now State Land Department—they do as they please without public input.
- Deal with water issues, too.
- Work with state and feds to explore changes in legislation of State land.

#3: Provide choices for transportation and mobility.

- Getting from east to west
- Explore rail options—for commerce and moving people

- Road between Benson/Willcox and here
- #4: Support unique, “fair share” communities.
- Need commerce in all communities
- #5: Create and attract “career pay—career path” jobs.
- Need a four-year college (CAC)
 - Recruit trade and technical schools
 - Public/private partnerships
 - Schools need to do more—not competitive. We are bringing people from other countries (counties?) for the high-paying jobs
 - Partner better with ASU, UA, NAU
- #6: Develop Pinal's talent pool.
- Education and training
 - Workforce and development
 - More choices—non-college
 - Trades

Participants were encouraged to participate in future Comprehensive Plan events.

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

Section 1

Responses to the following questions:

What ONE thing do you value most about Pinal County?

- Close to Phoenix and Tucson, without the congestion
- Country lifestyle
- Geographic diversity
- Location (2)
- Natural beauty
- Open spaces
- Rural atmosphere
- Rural life
- Scenery (3)
- Sense of community
- Water

What ONE thing do you **not** want to lose in Pinal County?

- Country living
- Feeling of community
- Identity
- Its uniqueness/individuality
- Landscaping (2)
- Loss of wilderness, open spaces

- Naturalness
- Non-crowding
- Our identity
- Rural life
- Rural nature/open space
- Sense of community

What ONE major change have you seen in Pinal County?

- Construction
- Growth (4)
- Houses replacing ag fields
- Huge population growth
- Increase in traffic (2)
- Lack of infrastructure
- More organized
- Too many rooftops
- Too much government

If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future?

- Rural feel, quality of life, enough water
- Tourism, economy—keep wilderness
- Beautiful landscaping and lots of growth, jobs
- Jobs, beautiful landscaping, and a lot of growth
- Not devoured by Pima/Maricopa Counties—“Megapolitan” area
- More people off welfare and working
- Crime free, well educated, no transportation issues
- A community that has it all
- Controlled, planned growth
- Good roads, good county government, low property taxes, good jobs
- Better leadership (more honest) Board of Supervisors and other elected officials
- Less government, less taxation, more freedom

Section 2

The average level of agreement for each of the six placemaking goals (1 strongly disagree, 5 strongly agree.)

Distinguish Pinal from Maricopa County and Pima County:	4.31
Protect miles of desert land and open space.	4.54
Provide choices for transportation and mobility.	4.23
Support unique, “fair share” communities.	4.00
Create and attract “career pay—career path” jobs.	4.23
Develop Pinal’s talent pool.	4.38

Responses to “what does each statement mean to you?”

Distinguishing Pinal from Maricopa County and Pima County.

- Keep history alive.
- Pinal is rural—totally different atmosphere, culture, and more.
- Pinal will still be its own place.
- Make Pinal have more large community.
- Regional recognition/cultural/environmental diversity
- Pinal to limit growth in flood plains
- Keep Pinal unique.
- Some parts of these counties are great!
- Don't have wall-to-wall development. Don't sell State land!
- We are different.

Protect miles of desert land and open space.

- Limit development
- Must—great to use for recreation
- Awesome views/hunting
- Freedom to “roam” for its citizens
- Need more space given to develop.
- (Pinal Parkway example) Protect and limit areas to different types of recreation.
- Protect those lands specific to game.
- Balance growth the useable open space.
- Keep hunting and fishing.
- Leave the desert and open spaces. Leave the farms and ranches. Don't squeeze them out.
- Within reason

Provide choices for transportation and mobility.

- Better access to metro areas
- Easier to get to job
- Light rail is important.
- Get more roads before it is too late.
- Light rail/mass transit between rural communities (transportation, homes)
- Develop an east/west line for commuters and commerce.
- “Future” modes of transportation: rail system, subway
- It has to come eventually.
- Never thought important
- If possible

Support unique, “fair share” communities.

- Maintain history
- Not sure means—Mammoth needs to keep heritage history, yet develop—next step
- ???
- Yes!
- Need to incorporate and get more money here.

- Split revenues—treat incorporated towns equally
- Yes, for commerce.
- Separate but equal
- Can't say

Create and attract “career pay—career path” jobs.

- Provide reasons to stay in Pinal.
- Yes, need this to have career and education for young and others.
- Better jobs, four-year schools (CAC)
- Very important—college districts
- Encourage more economic development and more education.
- Need more educational opportunities
- Set aside land for trade schools and colleges
- Must provide employment to avoid bedroom community
- CAC—Coolidge—four-year college
- Too big city—not keeping with “rural”
- Depends on attracting industry

Develop Pinal's talent pool.

- Education and training
- Training/education/workplace
- Very important
- Get away from the old miner mentality—get new leaders.
- OJT workforce training
- Make CAC a four-year school
- Strong, public education from pre-K through college
- How?

Responses to “what five key words do you think should be part of the Pinal County Vision Statement?”

- Clean air
- Cooperation
- Determine water resources
- Efficient transportation
- Futuristic
- Good roads
- High-scale jobs
- Historical (2)
- Housing diversity
- Independent
- Nature
- Quality
- Seek major employers

- Slow, planned growth
- Tradition
- Uniqueness
- Useable and diverse open spaces
- Varied assets
- Water conservation

Demographic Information

Attendees from:

- Mammoth 4
- San Manuel 3
- Dudleyville 1
- Oracle 1

I've lived in Pinal County for:

- < 2years: 1
- 2-5 years: 0
- 5-10 years: 1
- 10-20 years: 3
- > 20 years: 5

I am:

- 18 or under: 1
- 19-29: 0
- 30-39: 1
- 40-49: 2
- 50-64: 4
- Over 65: 3