

Summary Sheet
COLORADO DATA
FOR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DECADE PLANNING
REALITIES AND IMPLICATIONS

TASK

Information: Review relevant data on Colorado trends

So what? Identify and prioritize overarching issues implied by these data

Answer: Consider the strategic implications for Cooperative Extension:

Role of Extension: To act or not?

Partners?

Audiences?

Educational Methodologies?

Program Resource Sources?

POPULATION DATA

- Between 1990 and 2000, CO was the 3rd fastest growing state in U.S. Gained 29 % in number of households, 27 % in population. But 5 counties lost population: Baca, Cheyenne, Jackson, Kiowa, and San Juan
- From 1990 to 2000, the minority share of CO's population grew with a 4.2 % increase in Hispanics, 0.5 % increase in Asians, and 0.2 % increase in Native Americans while Non-Hispanic Whites decreased by 6 % and African Americans decreased by 0.2 %.
- 58 % of family households had both parents employed in 2000.
- 9.6 % of family households were female headed with no husband present.
- 6.7 % of family households were male headed with no wife present.
- 5 % of children lived with grandparents with no parent present

- Median income is higher and poverty is lower than for the U.S., but in 8 CO counties, 25-32 % of children live in poverty
- 1 in 5 CO children lives in a low income family eligible for Food Stamps

- Teen births have decreased, but CO is ranks 11th from the top in U.S. in rate of low birth weight babies born in 2001
- 14.9 % of CO children have no health insurance
- 70 % of small businesses saw health care premiums rise 20 % or more in 2001-02
- CO ranks 39th in the percentage of 2-year-olds receiving all recommended immunizations
- 1 in 4 Coloradans were overweight in 2001 and 14.9% were obese. While better than national average, this has doubled since 1990
- Between 1994 and 2002 the number of CO adults with diabetes doubled

- CO is 12th highest in rate of suicide in U.S. (35-44 year old men is highest)
- Suicide is the leading external cause of death among ranchers and farmers and the second highest cause of youth deaths in CO

- CO has the 3rd highest rate of child abuse in the U.S.
- Extremely low income families (30 % of median income) in metropolitan areas can afford \$451 in rent. Fair market rent for a 2 bedroom apartment is \$792.
- CO is 7th highest in the nation for percentage of high school drop outs
- CO has the highest % of population with a bachelor's degree in the U.S.
- CO ranks 7th in the nation in % with graduate or professional degrees
- CO ranked 45th in revenues per pupil for K-12 education in 2001
- In 2001 CO ranked 38th in per pupil expenditures for K-12 education

ECONOMY DATA

- **General Data**
 - < CO is experiencing the worst economic slump in 15 years
 - < Since 2000, CO has lost 80,000 jobs or 3.5 % of work force (U.S. lost 1.1 %)
 - Major losses are in construction (5 %), technology (13 %), communications (15 %) and travel/tourism (5 %)
 - < Metro-Denver's exposure to job losses in technology is twice the national average
 - < CO county unemployment ranges from 0.9 % to 9.7 %
 - < 9.4 % vacancy rates in apartments show they are overbuilt
 - < Mortgage foreclosures are at an 11 year peak
 - < Retail sales have been decreasing since 2000
 - < CO is ranked 19th in the U.S. as least affordable place to live
 - < A slow recovery is appearing in the national economy but CO will lag behind
 - < Technology should begin recovery in late 2003
 - < Communications is not expected to begin recovery until 2004
 - < Non-residential real estate is not expected to recover until 2003-2004
 - < In rural areas, and the immigration of retirees and the construction of prisons are the most powerful demands for new services
 - < Income inequality is a challenge in CO. 20 counties show serious inequalities of income with high numbers living in poverty and low levels of education
- **Agriculture Data**
 - < 4.4 % of CO labor is employed in agriculture
 - < Agribusiness provides \$15.9 billion to CO's economy and 2.19 % of personal and business income
 - < 80 % of CO's Ag. is in livestock and traditional crops
 - < \$2.6 billion are contributed from the equine industry
 - < \$2 billion are from the Green Industry
 - < Specialty crops are dominant in specific geographic areas (eg. fruit, vegetables)
 - < CO is largest producer of greenhouse grown vegetables in U.S.
 - < CO ranks 2nd for fresh market vegetable production
- **Drought Impacts**
 - < Drought impacts are estimated at more than \$1.1 billion in '02 with agriculture and tourism hardest hit.

- < '01-'02 saw a 40 % reduction in winter wheat, 25 % reduction in corn for grain, 60 % reduction in grain sorghum, 15 % reduction in alfalfa, 33 % reduction in other hay
- < Estimates of livestock sell off in various counties range from 7 % to 50 % with an overall reduction of 400,000 cattle and calves on hand in January 2002
- < 2002 was smallest wheat crop since '68
- < 43 % of farm income was accounted for by federal government programs. New farm bill is likely to increase that

NATURAL RESOURCES

- CO's \$8.5 billion tourism industry depends largely on natural resources
- 2.1 million people participated in wildlife associated recreation in Colorado in 2001, contributing \$1.7 billion to the state's economy.
- Of 66.3 million acres of land in CO, 41 % is public property and 59% is privately owned
- 85 % of Colorado water is used by agriculture
- January 2003 reservoir status varies from 21 % to 65 % of normal
- January 2003 snow pack is 75 % of normal
- Between 1987 and 1997 1.4 million acres of CO agricultural land was converted to other uses
- 553,163 acres of CO land are invaded by noxious weeds
- 2,012 CO forest fires in 2002 burned 501,630 acres
- Old forest are fuel loaded and insect and disease vulnerable
- Private homes built in forested areas are changing the ecosystem and demands for services
- Wildlife are changing in habitats and population numbers. 60,000 more elk and 100,000 fewer deer are present in the state than recommended by the Division of Natural Resources. Human adapted animal populations are increasing and less adaptive are decreasing.

MAJOR ISSUES

- Increasingly differentiated economy by regions
- Work Force Preparation
- Increasing minority population
- Appropriate family services across the lifespan
- Imposed budget limitations of TABOR. Amendment 23, and Gallagher
- Competition over natural resources
- Change from a culture of "extraction and independence" to "renewal and investment" (Cooperative Planning)

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CO Planning Doc