

Wallowa County Indicators of Vitality 2009 Report Summary

A Product of the Vital Wallowa Indicator Project,

A collaboration of:

Wallowa Resources, Wallowa County, The Ford Institute for Community Building,
Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, and
Oregon State University Extension Service & Rural Studies Program

Vital communities are those in which residents work together and achieve a balance of positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes. As rural communities today face various economic, ecological, and population changes it is important that they pay close attention to their vitality. Such focus can illuminate the targets for coordinated community action during challenging times. That said, within this broad notion of community vitality, for which specific goals should rural communities aim? And once the goals are set, how will the community know if the goals are being met?

In 2008 and 2009, Oregon State University (Extension Service and Rural Studies Program) and Wallowa Resources received funding from the Ford Institute for Community Building to partner in an effort to answer the questions posed above. The purpose of the project was to work together with county residents to define Wallowa County community vitality in such a way that reflects the goals and values of the community, measure vitality with indicators, and then assess the vitality of Wallowa County with indicator data and community input.

With this set of goals and a clear way of gauging the attainment of these goals in hand, county residents, agencies, organizations, officials, and other decision-makers can initiate, or continue to support, policies or programs designed to bolster vitality. With regular and continual tracking of indicator data it will be possible to observe changes in the vitality of Wallowa County; providing residents and decision-makers some insight into how community decisions affect the county's vitality.

This document provides an overview of the 2009 Vital Wallowa Indicator Project findings. Each section describes a portion of Wallowa County's vision for a vital future. Following each description are numeric indicators of that vital future, along with targets. For the full report or a presentation of the report findings please contact Nils Christoffersen at Wallowa Resources: nils@wallowaresources.org.

Use this document to:

- Improve your understanding of Wallowa County priorities
- Identify areas of county vitality and areas in need of attention
- Promote programs, actions, or policies that address these priority issues

2009 Wallowa County Indicator Report Prepared by:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Organizational Partners

- ❖ Wallowa Resources
- ❖ Oregon State University Rural Studies Program & Extension Service
- ❖ Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
- ❖ The Ford Institute for Community Building

Members of the Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Advisory Committee

- ❖ Ben Boswell, Former Wallowa County Commissioner
- ❖ Cory Carmen, Carman Ranch and Wallowa Land Services
- ❖ Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources
- ❖ Mindy Crandall, Oregon State University
- ❖ Lena Etuk, Oregon State University
- ❖ Chris Geyer, Lower Valley Economic Development Team
- ❖ Anne Gill, Wallowa County Commission on Children and Families
- ❖ Don Harker, Joseph, OR
- ❖ Mary Hawkins, Former City Council Member Wallowa, OR
- ❖ Jim Henson, Wallowa Resources
- ❖ Sara Miller, Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
- ❖ Vicki Searles, Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Diane Snyder, US Endowment for Forestry and Communities
- ❖ Bruce Weber, Oregon State University
- ❖ John Williams, Oregon State University Extension Service - Wallowa County

Additional Contributors

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- ❖ Joel Hartter, Department of Geography, University of New Hampshire
- ❖ Devora Shamah, Department of Human Development & Family Sciences, Oregon State University

Indicator Assessment Key:

☺ = On target

☹ = Below target

☺ = Neutral judgment

The indicator assessment is based on targets set by the Wallowa County community and other groups.

¹ – Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Advisory Committee

² – Wallowa County Weed District Partners

Our Social Goals

Goal 1.1 *Wallowa County is rich in year-round residents, with a foundation of young people and families. Our quality of life attracts families, young people, and newcomers with similar values*

☹	1. Population by Age	Wallowa County's population age 25-44 is 86% of the population age 25-44 in non-metropolitan Oregon	Target: $\geq 100\%$ ¹	
☹		Wallowa County's population age 45-64 is 117% of the population age 45-64 in non-metropolitan Oregon	Target: $\leq 100\%$ ¹	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

☹	2. Migration by Age		Target: Equal to non-metro OR ¹
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics (Johnson, Voss, Hammer, Fugitt, & McNiven 2004)

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Goal 1.2 We intentionally care for and nurture one another

		Satisfaction with Health Care Quality															
☺		86% of Wallowa County adults who saw a Wallowa County health care provider in 2008-2009, were satisfied with quality of care they received	Target: 85% ¹														
		Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009															
		Satisfaction with Health Care Options															
☹	3. Health Care Satisfaction	16% of Wallowa County adults delayed care because they were dissatisfied with local provider choices in 2008-2009	Target: <16% ¹														
		<p>Percentage of Wallowa County adults who are satisfied with the number of health care providers of each type in Wallowa County</p> <p>Source: 2009 Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of Wallowa County adults satisfied with number of health care providers</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Provider Type</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Practitioners</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Specialists</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental Health</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dentists, OB/GYNs, Optometrists, & Podiatrists</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alternative Medicine</td> <td>39%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Provider Type	Percentage	General Practitioners	55%	Other Specialists	11%	Mental Health	20%	Dentists, OB/GYNs, Optometrists, & Podiatrists	50%	Alternative Medicine	39%		
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		Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009															
		Satisfaction with Health Care Access															
☺		58% of Wallowa County adults who saw a health care provider in 2008-2009, only saw health care providers inside the county	Target: 50% ¹														
☺		85% of Wallowa County adults were satisfied with the distance they traveled for care in 2008-2009	Target: 85% ¹														
		<p>Average travel time to all health care providers visited in previous 12 months: Wallowa County, OR adult residents</p> <p>Source: 2009 Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Average travel time to all health care providers visited in previous 12 months</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Travel Time</th> <th>% of Residents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><11 minutes</td> <td>31.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11-20 minutes</td> <td>32.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21-30 minutes</td> <td>23.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31-60 minutes</td> <td>9.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1-2 hours</td> <td>2.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More than 2 hours</td> <td>1.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Travel Time	% of Residents	<11 minutes	31.6%	11-20 minutes	32.5%	21-30 minutes	23.0%	31-60 minutes	9.1%	1-2 hours	2.8%	More than 2 hours	1.0%
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		Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009															
☹	4. Health Care Affordability	Wallowa County's percentage of population under 65 without health insurance is 37% higher than Oregon's percentage	Target: 0% ¹														
☹		29% of Wallowa County adults delayed care due to cost in 2008-2009	Target: <29% ¹														
		Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009															

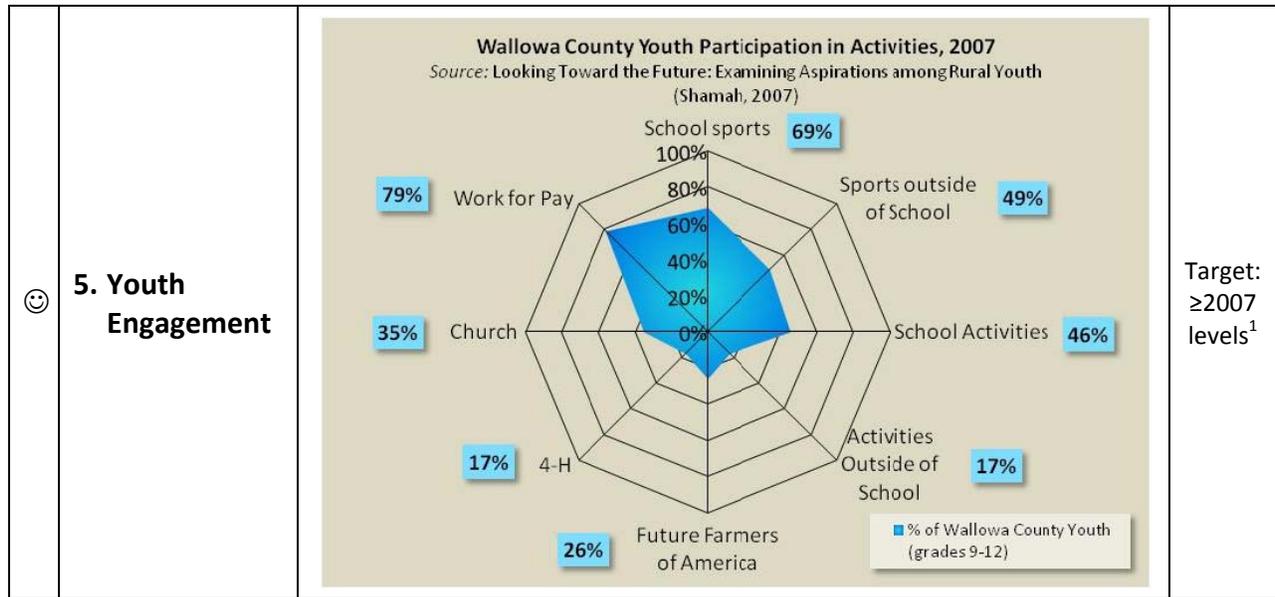
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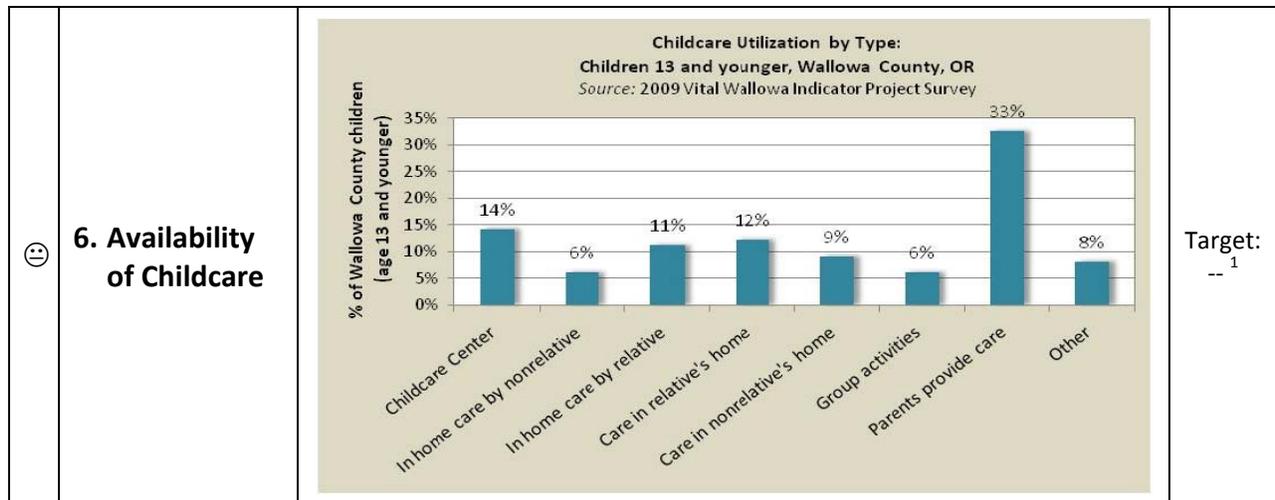
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Goal 1.3 *We focus on our children, finding ways to connect youth with new opportunities in the community and to have a positive community experience. We support our population of young people and families.*



Source: Looking toward the future: Examining aspirations among rural youth (Shamah, 2007)



Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009



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Goal 1.4 Educational and recreational opportunities are cultivated, and our culture of lifelong learning encourages sharing of our experiences

☺	7. Lifelong Learning	73% of Wallowa County adults participated in at least one type of learning opportunity (such as mentoring, taking a class, or offering a class) in 2008-2009	Target: 70% ¹
☹		10% of Wallowa County adults took or offered a class through an organization located in Wallowa County in 2008-2009	Target: 25% ¹

Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009

☹	8. School Enrollment	<p style="text-align: center;">2008-2009 Student Enrollment, Wallowa County, OR Schools <small>Source: OR Department of Education, School Districts, Region 18 Education Service, Schools</small></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th># of Students Enrolled</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Enterprise Elementary (K-6)</td> <td>187</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enterprise High School (7-12)</td> <td>208</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wallowa Elementary (K-6)</td> <td>123</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wallowa High School (7-12)</td> <td>111</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph Elementary (K-4)</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph Middle School (5-8)</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph High School (9-12)</td> <td>83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imnaha Elementary (K-8)</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Troy Elementary (K-8)</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alternative School</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Homeschooled Students</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private: Providence Academy, Lostine</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private: Montessori, Joseph (K only)</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private: Seventh-Day Adventist,...</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	# of Students Enrolled	Enterprise Elementary (K-6)	187	Enterprise High School (7-12)	208	Wallowa Elementary (K-6)	123	Wallowa High School (7-12)	111	Joseph Elementary (K-4)	85	Joseph Middle School (5-8)	60	Joseph High School (9-12)	83	Imnaha Elementary (K-8)	5	Troy Elementary (K-8)	4	Alternative School	0	Homeschooled Students	100	Private: Providence Academy, Lostine	n/a	Private: Montessori, Joseph (K only)	0	Private: Seventh-Day Adventist,...	24	Target: -- ¹
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Source: School Districts, Region 18 Education Service, Schools

Goal 1.5 Our community is rich in year-round residents of young people and families who do not endure extreme economic disparity and who can carry the heritage of agriculture and ranching forward in the next generation.

☹	9. Workforce Housing	Wallowa County's percentage of low-income renters who spent more than 30% of income on housing (housing cost-burdened) was 6% higher than Oregon's percentage in 2000	Target: 0% ¹
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Source: US Census, SF3, 2000; OR Housing & Community Service

☺	10. Farm & Ranch Ownership	56% of farm or ranch owners (40+ acre parcels) were year-round County residents in 2009	Target: -- ¹
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Source: Wallowa County Assessor's Office, 2009

☺	11. Seasonal Home-ownership	13% of housing units in Wallowa County were seasonal-use homes in 2000	Target: 13% ¹
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Source: US Census, SF3, 2000

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Our Economic Goals

Goal 2.1 *Wallowa County provides stable and living wage jobs*

		Wallowa County average earnings (\$25,523) relative to County's cost of living:	
☺	12. Living Wage Jobs	Wallowa County average earnings cover 101% of the county cost of living for families of 1 parent with 1 child (one wage-earner)	Target: $\geq 101\%$ ¹
☹		Wallowa County average earnings cover 74% of the county cost of living for families of 2 parents with 1 child (one wage-earner)	Target: $\geq 101\%$ ¹

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, OR Housing & Community Services, 2007

--	13. Employment Stability	No Data
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Goal 2.2 *We capture the value of local businesses and high quality agriculture through new products and niche markets serving residents, visitors, and customers outside the area.*

☹	14. Balance of Trade	Wallowa County Export dollars were 66% of Wallowa County Import dollars in 2007	Target: 100% ¹
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Source: IMPLAN, 2007

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Goal 2.3 *In addition to carrying agriculture and ranching forward into the next generation, Wallowa County cultivates a balance of compatible locally-owned small businesses, which add to our diverse and innovative economy.*

☺	15. Small & Large Business Health	Rate of change in # of Wallowa County small businesses (with 0-4 employees) in 2008: +6%	Target: +5% ¹
☹		Rate of change in # of Wallowa County large businesses (with 20+ employees) in 2008: -16%	Target: ≥0% ¹

Source: Oregon Employment Department

☺	16. Employers by Size	<p>Businesses by Employee Size, Wallowa County, OR 1st Quarter 2009 Source: OR Employment Department</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Employee Size</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Businesses with 0 employees</td> <td>86</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Businesses with 1-4 employees</td> <td>191</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Businesses with 5-9 employees</td> <td>68</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Businesses with 10 or more employees</td> <td>32</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Employee Size	Count	Percentage	Businesses with 0 employees	86	23%	Businesses with 1-4 employees	191	51%	Businesses with 5-9 employees	68	18%	Businesses with 10 or more employees	32	8%	Target: >377 total firms, 2009 percentage levels ¹
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Source: OR Employment Department, 2009

☺	17. Employment in Industries Targeted by County Economic Development Strategy	<p>Percentage of Jobs by Industry, Wallowa County, OR 2007 Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Industry</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manufacturing</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retail trade</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional, scientific, management, admin, and waste mgmt services</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other industries</td> <td>61%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Industry	Percentage	Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining	5%	Manufacturing	5%	Retail trade	12%	Professional, scientific, management, admin, and waste mgmt services	7%	Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	10%	Other industries	61%	Target: 2007 levels ¹
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Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2007

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Our Environmental Goals

Goal 3.1 High-speed telecommunication and transportation infrastructure helps us export our products and services as well as attracts families and young people

☹	18. Telecommunications	757 High-Speed internet accounts were held by Wallowa County residents and businesses from Eastern OR Network Inc. in 2008. More data needed	Target: -- ¹
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Source: Eastern OR Network, Inc., 2008

Goal 3.2 Wallowa County is home to wide-open spaces, intact ranchlands, and a healthy environment

☺	19. Working Landscapes	50% of Wallowa County land was available for, or in productive use (grazing, timber, farming) in 2009	Target: 50% ¹
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Source: USDA Agricultural Census, US Forest Service

☺	20. Land Access for Hunting, Fishing, and Recreation	34% of Wallowa County landowners said they would allow the general public access to their land for hunting in 2009	Target: ≥34% ¹
☺		30% of Wallowa County landowners said they would allow the general public access to their land for fishing in 2009	Target: ≥30% ¹
☺		13% of Wallowa County landowners said they would allow the general public access to their land for other recreation in 2009	Target: ≥13% ¹

Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009

☺		423,748 acres of Wallowa County, Forest Service land was available for public hunting, recreation, and fishing in 2009	Target: 423,748 ¹
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Source: US Forest Service, 2009

☹	21. Water Quality	177 miles of stream in the Imnaha watershed were 303d listed ("Water quality limited") between 2004 and 2006	Target: -- ¹
		202 miles of stream in the Lower Grande Ronde watershed were 303d listed ("Water quality limited") between 2004 and 2006	Target: -- ¹
		143 miles of stream in the Wallowa watershed were 303d listed ("Water quality limited") between 2004 and 2006	Target: -- ¹

Source: OR Department of Environmental Quality, 2004-2006

☺	22. Noxious Weeds	2,591 acres of land in Wallowa County were treated for invasive plant species in 2009	Target: 2,500 ²
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Source: Wallowa County Weed District Partners, 2009

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Our Community Capacity Goals

Goal 4.1 *Our small towns, local businesses, and active volunteers collaborate to create a shared future for the county*

☺	23. Civic Involvement & Representation	<p>79% of Wallowa County adults participated in 2 or more civic activities in last 12 months (2008-2009)</p>	<p>Target: 75%¹</p>	<p>Civic Participation of Wallowa County Adults Source: 2009 Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey</p>
☹		<p><i>Representation by age, gender, & % of life lived in Wallowa County among those who participated in civic life in last 12 months (2008-2009)</i></p>	<p><u>Age:</u> 18-28 consistently under-represented</p> <p><u>Gender:</u> women consistently under-represented</p> <p><u>% of life lived in Wallowa County:</u> residents who have lived 76%-100% of life in county consistently under-represented</p>	<p>Target: Equal representation¹</p>
		<p>Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009</p>		
☺	24. County Government Revenues	<p>Annual County spending per capita: \$1,994 in fiscal year 2008-2009</p>	<p>Target: \$1,994¹</p>	
☺		<p>35% of the Wallowa County Government revenue came from fees, taxes, and grants in fiscal year 2008-2009</p>	<p>Target: 35%¹</p>	<p>Wallowa County Government Revenue Sources, 2008-2009 Source: Wallowa County Dept. of Administrative Services</p>
		<p>Source: Wallowa County Department of Administrative Services, FY 2008-2009</p>		

Source: Wallowa County Department of Administrative Services, FY 2008-2009

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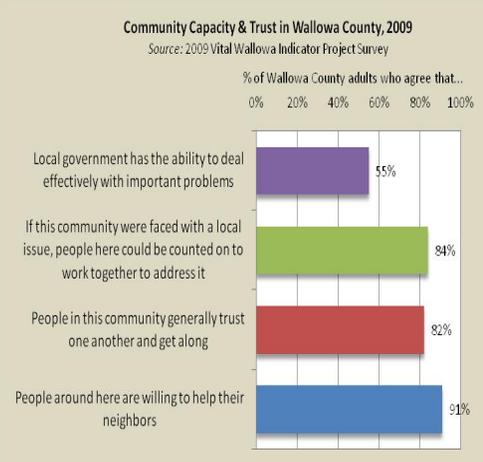
☺ = Neutral judgment

Goal 4.2 We intentionally nurture and connect year-round residents, including young people and families, through community events and community spaces, in order to foster a cohesive and collaborative community environment

☺	25. Public Gatherings & Spaces	38 public gathering places (restaurants, cafes, public school buildings, community centers, and granges) in 2009	Target: 38 ¹
		54 community forums, festivals, and events in 2009	Target: 54 ¹
		<i>Source: Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, 2009</i>	
		63% of adults often or always met with friends at private residences in 2009	Target: 63% ¹

Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009

% of Wallowa County adults in 2009 who perceive that:			
☺	26. Community Capacity & Trust	<u>People in the community are willing to help their neighbors:</u> 91%	Target: 91% ¹
		<u>People in the community are trustworthy and get along with each other:</u> 82%	Target: 82% ¹
		<u>People in the community can be counted on to work together to address community issues:</u> 84%	Target: 84% ¹
		<u>Local government has the ability to deal effectively with important problems:</u> 55%	Target: >55% ¹



Source: Vital Wallowa Indicator Project Survey, 2009

For a copy of the full 2009 indicator report or a report of the methodology used to conduct and analyze the 2009 Vital Wallowa Indicator Project survey please contact Lena Etuk at Oregon State University (lena.etuk@oregonstate.edu) or Nils Christoffersen at Wallowa Resources (nils@wallowaresources.org).

Note: The margin of error associated with survey results is 6%, with 95% confidence.