



Economic RSF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Feasibility Study — USDA Certified Meat Processing System

Project Goal

Determine viability of establishing USDA Certified Meat Processing system (facility versus Mobile Unit) for local ranchers to have their cattle processed for retail sales.

Project Need

Small-scale ranchers in the local area struggle to access USDA-certified meat processing facilities for their livestock. These facilities play a crucial role in allowing ranchers to sell their products in retail markets, which is a vital source of income for them. However, the cost of transportation to distant USDA-certified facilities and processing fees can be prohibitive. This feasibility study aims to determine whether establishing a certified meat processing system will be a viable solution for ranchers in the area.

Project Description

The feasibility study will involve conducting a detailed analysis of the costs and benefits of establishing a USDA-certified meat processing facility versus a mobile unit in the local area. This analysis will include market research to identify the demand for locally sourced meat products, an assessment of the existing supply chain infrastructure, and an evaluation of the regulatory requirements and operational costs associated with establishing the processing system. The study will also consider the potential environmental impacts of the facility or mobile unit and identify any social or cultural factors that could impact the project's success.

Challenges

This project may face several challenges, including securing funding for the project, navigating complex regulatory requirements, finding a suitable location for the facility or mobile unit, and ensuring that the processing system is economically viable for local ranchers. The study may also need to address concerns related to environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and public health and safety.

Project Champion

To be determined

Partners

- Dixie Fire Collaborative
- Chamber of Commerce
- Cattlemen's Association
- Plumas & Sierra Counties Community Food Council

Community Capacity

The Plumas County Planning Department has applied for funds through the California Department of Housing and Community Development to develop Disaster Recovery Plan with emphasis on Economic Development. The Dixie Fire Collaborative has been identifying economic opportunities of Greenville and Indian Valley.

Sustainability & Resiliency

Agriculture (farming + ranching) is part of the culture of our county. Increasing the ranch revenues realized by retail meat sales will contribute to the sustainability of our rural county.

Cost Estimate

Less than \$500k

Timeline

1 to 2 years

Potential Resources

- USDA Rural Infrastructure Grant

Action Items

- Assemble a team including experts in agriculture, food systems, business development, and environmental sustainability
- Conduct market research to identify the demand for locally sourced meat products
- Assess the existing supply chain infrastructure and regulatory requirements
- Identify potential sources of funding and revenue generation
- Evaluate potential environmental impacts
- Develop strategies for reducing the environmental impacts
- Engage with local ranchers, regulatory agencies, and community organizations to gather stakeholder input and feedback
- Analyze data and information collected to determine the feasibility
- Develop a detailed plan for implementing the processing system

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Economic RSF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Feasibility Study — Mountain Modular Home Plant

Project Goal

The objective of this project is to provide affordable homes while solving workforce housing challenges and enhancing economic development and diversity.

Project Need

Plumas County has a housing crisis. Major employers, have huge staff vacancies because of two reasons: lack of affordable and accessible housing, and lack of good employment opportunities. Since the Dixie Fire, these two issues are critical for the survival of Plumas County.

Project Description

This project involves studying the feasibility of building and sustaining a facility that would construct and develop manufactured modular housing locally in Plumas County. It would consist of a modular assembly line and factory designed to construct high-quality and customizable homes using modern technology and sustainable materials. The facility would be environmentally friendly and energy-efficient, utilizing advanced manufacturing processes to ensure precision and quality. It would provide job opportunities for skilled laborers and professionals in the local community, and source materials and services locally whenever possible. The facility would be built to meet or exceed building codes, providing a safe and durable housing options.

Challenges

- Locating available and appropriate land
- Establishing markets for designed modular homes
- Expediting the permit process to start construction
- Providing incentives and raw materials for the product
- Providing enough homes for the burn scar communities inside and outside Plumas County

Project Champion

To be determined

Partners

- Sierra Pacific Industries and Collins Pine Company
- Plumas National Forest
- Plumas County Planning and Building Services
- Indian Valley Innovation Hub
- Alliance for Workforce Development

Community Capacity

Community capacity requirements include sufficient workforce numbers to build the plant and build the homes. The County and community's desire to welcome such a project. The community's capacity to buy designed modular homes. The capacity of community lumber mills that can provide the materials needed to build the modular homes. Incentives provided by the Forest Service for enhanced timber allotments.

Sustainability & Resiliency

This project will diversify the economy for Plumas County and employ a workforce that is familiar with woodworking, construction trades, and the lumber industry. It could open up opportunities to employee individuals coming out of high school and college that seek skilled jobs in their home community.

Action Items

- Finding available land that is zoned industrial.
- Purchase or lease the land required to build the mountain design modular home factory.
- Build modular homes to design and code requirements.
- Deliver homes to the property of the purchaser.

Cost Estimate

To be determined

Timeline

3 to 5 years

Potential Resources

- Grants from CDBG-DR
- Grants from Go-BIZ
- Assistance from SPI and Collins Pine Company
- Loans from USDA and or RCAC
- Technical Assistance from Plumas County

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Economic RSF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Feasibility Study — Countywide Gathering Places as Economic Drivers [Chester Town Plaza, Complete & Retain “The Spot” in Greenville, Quincy Visitor Center, Portola Visitor Center]

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to create permanent gathering places throughout Plumas County that will drive economic growth in the region by attracting more visitors to the area. This includes the creation of visitor centers in Quincy and Portola, a Town Plaza in Chester, and the completion of the Pop-Up Business District in Greenville (“The Spot”).

Project Need

Plumas County is a rural region that has been facing declining populations and decreasing levels of business activity. One way to stimulate the local economy is by creating gathering places that showcase the unique features and attractions of the area, thereby attracting more tourists and visitors.

Project Description

The visitor centers in Quincy and Portola will serve as hubs for tourism, providing information about local attractions, accommodations, and activities. They will also offer educational and cultural programs that showcase the history and natural beauty of the region. The centers will be designed to be welcoming, accessible, and visually appealing, with interactive displays, comfortable seating areas, and gift shops selling locally made goods. The expansion of amenities and activities at Chester Park into a Town Plaza will serve as a central gathering place for residents and visitors, with features such as seating areas, public art installations, and space for community events. It will also support local businesses by providing a space for outdoor dining and shopping.

Project Description (cont'd)

The completion of The Spot in Greenville will set the framework to be able to provide a permanent home for the Pop-Up Business District, offering space for local entrepreneurs and small businesses to sell their products and services. It will also serve as a hub for community events and activities, promoting social resilience and community pride.

Challenges

Funding, location, and marketing.

Project Champion

To be determined

Partners

To be determined

Community Capacity

The Plumas County community has demonstrated its ability to come together to support local projects and events. Local organizations will be key partners in the development and promotion of these gathering places. Community leaders and residents will also be engaged in the project.

Sustainability & Resiliency

These gathering places will contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the region by driving economic growth and creating jobs. They will also showcase the unique features and attractions of the area, thereby promoting tourism and supporting local businesses. The gathering places will also provide spaces for community events and gatherings, promoting social resilience and a sense of community pride.

Cost Estimate

To be Determined

Timeline

To be Determined

Action Items

- Conduct a feasibility study to determine the most suitable locations and designs for the gathering places.
- Develop a fundraising plan to secure funding for the projects.
- Hire architects to design the gathering places and obtain necessary permits and approvals.
- Hire contractors to build the gathering places.
- Develop a marketing plan to promote the gathering places and attract visitors to the area.
- Hire staff to manage and operate the gathering places.

Potential Resources

- Sierra Small Business Development Council
- Chambers of Commerce

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Economic RSF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Tourism Strategy — Leveraging Partnerships with Like Minded Organizations [Building Rural Economies with Rural Communities Assistance Corporation, Discover the Lost Sierra Economic Development Initiative, Plumas-Sierra-Lassen Chamber Coalition]

Project Goal

Develop and implement a comprehensive tourism strategy in the Plumas-Sierra-Lassen County region that leverages partnerships with like-minded organizations, including the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), the Plumas-Sierra-Lassen County Chamber Coalition, and the Discover The Lost Sierra Economic Development Initiative.

Project Need

The need to rebuild the economy of the region and attract new visitors is critical. The primary goal of this project is to transform the rural economy by leveraging partnerships with like-minded organizations to create a comprehensive tourism strategy.

Project Description

The project will combine the efforts of Building Rural Economies by RCAC, Plumas-Sierra-Lassen County Chamber Coalition, and Discover the Lost Sierra Economic Development Initiative. RCAC will identify local entrepreneurial and economic recovery opportunities and provide economic development training..

The Chamber Coalition will provide financial sustainability to staff effective Chambers and Visitors Centers throughout the Lost Sierra region and plans to apply for 501(c)3 non-profit status or operate under an existing non-profit as a Charitable Impact Fund that will seek funding for community benefit projects and capacity that will grow the regional economies.

Project Description (cont'd)

The Discover the Lost Sierra Economic Development Initiative will lead the effort to define and brand the Lost Sierra region to increase visitor numbers and enhance their stays.

Project Champion

Blissbranding Agency,
Indian Valley Innovation Hub

Partners

- Quincy Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Almanor Area Chamber of Commerce
- Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce
- Lassen County Chambers
- Sierra County Chambers

Challenges

The challenges facing the project include the need to coordinate efforts between multiple organizations, limited availability of resources, and whole community engagement..

Community Capacity

The project's success will rely on the participation of interested local businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as the chambers of commerce and visitors' centers within the Lost Sierra region. The RCAC program would provide technical assistance and training to build capacity within the local community.

Sustainability & Resiliency

The project's aim is to create a sustainable rural economy through the growth of the tourism industry, which will provide job opportunities for local residents, and building the capacity of local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Action Items

- Formulate tourism strategy
- Engage community leaders
- Inform and engage the community
- Assemble community liaisons
- Determine goals and priorities
- Develop and implement action plan

Cost Estimate

To be determined

Timeline

To be determined

Potential Resources

- Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
- Local Chambers

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Economic RSF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Indian Valley Disaster Academy

Project Goal

Create a dynamic facility built on the experience of a historic disaster, dedicated to preparing other "at risk" communities in helping them avoid, or better mitigate such disasters.

Project Need

There are two reasons a project like this is necessary; by helping other communities, our community can heal. Secondly, the community needs the economic potential the Academy can offer. Even in the best of times, Plumas County is competing with similar communities for economic development and is usually at a disadvantage for a variety of reasons. By creating a world class academy that shares a mission of hope and preparedness, Plumas County becomes a recognized leader in something that few others can claim.

Project Description

The Academy will be based on a curriculum developed by the many partners and experts in the field of disaster prevention, recovery and resiliency. Key officials from communities throughout North America would visit Indian Valley for multiple days to learn the latest techniques in preparation for natural disasters.

Challenges

Funding: The project will require a considerable amount of funding to construct and maintain the facility.

Partnering with experts: Finding the right partners, establishing collaborations, and coordinating with them may be a complex process.

Attracting visitors: Convincing officials and communities from across North America to visit the Academy and participate in the program may be a challenge.

Developing a curriculum: A curriculum that meets the diverse needs of various communities across the U.S. will be a challenge.

Challenges (cont'd)

Sustainability: Finding ways to make the Academy self-sustaining and generate revenue to maintain its operations will be essential.

Project Champion

Indian Valley Innovation Hub

Partners

- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services
- California Department of Emergency Services
- FEMA, Cal OES
- United States Forest Service

Community Capacity

Many in the community have become "experts" on topics that will come up in disaster after disaster. Now is the time to have those people contribute to an effective, real world curriculum.

Sustainability & Resiliency

The Indian Valley Disaster Resiliency Academy keep Plumas County on the front line of this arena. With the constant presence of this kind of organization, it would be hard to imagine Plumas County as not the most prepared community in America. Additionally, by becoming a leader in this area, the long reaching reputation would draw visitors to train and hopefully visit longer, both bringing in outside money to our county.

Cost Estimate

\$2 to \$5 million

Timeline

3 to 5 years

Action Items

- Begin planning through Indian Valley Innovation Hub
- Establish the lead organization
- Search for suitable site and begin building design
- Create funding plan and solicit sources

Potential Resources

- Governmental technical assistance
- Private funding
- Donations

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Economic RSF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Connected Communities Project

Project Goal

The Connected Communities Project aims to stimulate and diversify the economies of 13 rural communities by improving singletrack trail recreation opportunity throughout the region and encourage diverse user types to explore and recreate on public land. Plumas County is centrally located in the project area and includes the largest land area.

Project Need

Plumas County was one of the richest counties during the Goldrush and again during the Timber Boom, however now it is ~ 13% below poverty and median household income is 18% less than the national average (2020 census). Diversification of the regional economy will be necessary to maintain and uplift the way of life in Plumas County. With over 70% of Plumas County being public land investments should be made on public land to bolster and diversify the regional economy. The recreation industry accounted for \$862 billion of 2021 consumer spending and trail sports and activities represent the largest share.

Project Description

Phase 1 of the Connected Communities Project launched in 2020 to evaluate recreation connectivity opportunities between the communities of Susanville, Westwood, Chester, Jonesville, Greenville, Taylorsville, Quincy, Portola, Graeagle, Downieville, Sierra City, Sierraville and Loyalton, and possible connectivity to Truckee and Reno, NV.

This funding supported planning efforts for partnership and collaboration with agencies and organizations, significant community outreach, trail feasibility evaluation, and development of a Trails Feasibility Study and Trails Master Plan. The project has identified approximately 600 miles of new trail construction to provide connectivity across the region to the towns listed above as well as smaller populated areas. The project has identified 19 trailhead locations and 11 recreation zones for future recreation evaluation. Project Phase 2 is Environmental Review, Phase 3 is Construction and Phase 4 includes maintenance.

Challenges

- Phase 2 funding is not secured
- Public agencies have limited and fluctuating capacity
- Phase 3 funding needs are large
- Long term maintenance funding mechanisms will vary depending on trail designation by the land manager

Project Champion

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS)

Partners

- Plumas, Lassen, Tahoe, and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests
- Bureau of Land Management
- Plumas, Sierra, Lassen, Butte, and Nevada counties

Community Capacity

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is committed to championing the Trails Master Plan implementation, however, this effort is highly dependent on Land Manager and project partner's fluctuating capacity. Community support shown by outreach survey indicates that 88% of people are willing to volunteer to help implement the project.

Sustainability & Resiliency

Recreation assets add value to our community as a whole, from mental and physical health to economics. This project is poised to highlight the entire region as a recreation destination.

Action Items

Phase 1 - Planning (funded) - complete a regional Trails Master Plan, expected in 2023

Phase 2 - Environmental Review - secure funding, estimated cost of \$6.7M - complete NEPA and CEQA

Phase 3 - Trail Construction - once approved, secure funding for trail and infrastructure construction - estimated cost of \$40M

Phase 4 - Maintenance estimated at \$2.2M per year

Cost Estimate

More than \$5 million

Timeline

To be determined

Potential Resources

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC)
- California OHV
- Nevada OHV
- State and County funding
- Land Manager funding
- Private fundraising by SBTS

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Economic RSF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Sacred Waters of Greenville Thermal Wellness Center

Project Goal

Build a thermal waters wellness center to serve the health needs of residents countywide and be a year round tourist destination.

Project Need

To recover from the Dixie Fire, Greenville needs wellness services, economic development to create jobs, and workforce housing. This project would address all three of these needs.

Project Description

Underground geothermal resources are plentiful in Greenville. Some geothermal waters are natural exposed, some are developed via geothermal wells, and others remain untapped. This project will identify a suitable location within Greenville to access such waters.

This project would be completed in 3 phases, and at full build out would create year round jobs for residents. Sacred Waters would also be a strong educational resource to help residents maintain healthy, sustainable lives. Multi-family housing would also be built on site or nearby for staff and visitors.

Challenges

Location: Finding a suitable location with a geothermal resource may be challenging.

Geological Considerations: Building a geothermal wellness center requires detailed knowledge of the geology of the site, including the characteristics of the rock formations, water flow, and subsurface conditions. These factors can influence the feasibility and design of the project.

Technical Expertise: Building a geothermal wellness center requires specialized technical expertise in areas such as geothermal resource assessment, well drilling, reservoir engineering, and power plant design. It may be difficult to find skilled workers or contractors with the necessary expertise.

Challenges (cont'd)

Cost: The capital costs of building a geothermal wellness center can be significant. The cost of drilling geothermal wells, constructing power plants and other facilities, and installing the necessary equipment can be expensive.

Project Champion

Ken Donnell

Partners

To be determined

Sustainability & Resiliency

A geothermal wellness center can contribute to improving community resilience by providing economic benefits, increasing energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, improving community health, and offering educational and outreach opportunities. The center can create jobs, generate revenue, and provide a reliable source of power using renewable energy.

It can also reduce the carbon footprint of the community, promote physical and mental health, and provide educational workshops on sustainable living, renewable energy, and holistic health practices. All of these factors can help the community to adapt to and withstand a range of challenges and stressors, thereby increasing overall resilience.

Community Capacity

Current capacity to implement this project is limited. Project champions will need to recruit numerous partners to make this project a reality.

Action Items

- Secure partners
- Secure Funding
- Site Selection
- Conceptual Design
- Detailed Design
- Permitting and Approval
- Construction
- Testing and Commissioning
- Operation and Maintenance

Cost Estimate

More than \$5 million

Timeline

Over 5 years

Potential Resources

To be determined

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