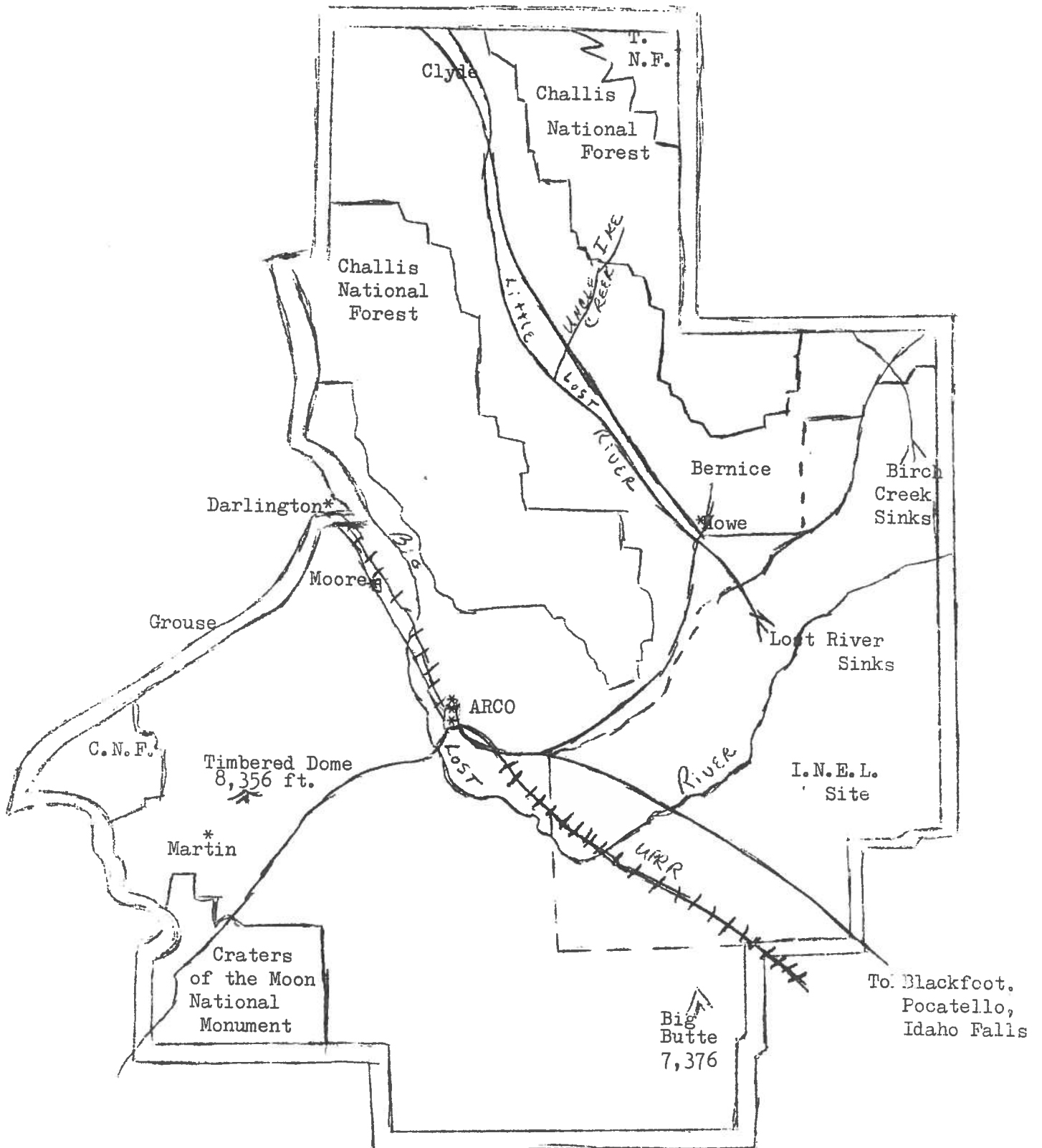


A LOOK AT BUTTE COUNTY
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SITUATION
AND PROBLEMS
1977

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I. HISTORY OF COUNTY

Butte County was organized by House Bill #6 on May 23rd by the 1917 legislature. The county was formerly part of Blaine County. The county districts were formed June 2, 1917. The county school districts were formed starting July 9, 1917. Original settlements in the county include Darlington, Pass Creek, Era, Arco, Howe and Moore. When the county was first established, the county seat was located at Moore but later during the same year the county seat was moved to Arco. The community of Moore was platted May, 1908 and was part of Blaine county at that time. The community of Darlington was platted November, 1909, and was part of Blaine County at the time. The Arco settlement originated in 1901. Since the communities of Darlington, Moore and Arco were platted, several sub-divisions have been added. The county population in 1970 was 2925 compared to a July 1, 1975 estimate of 3,240. This reflects a 10.8% increase in population during the five year period. The county population estimates of 1975 indicates Butte City has a population of 81 compared to 42 in 1970 for a increase of 92.9%. Moore has a population of 182 compared to 156 in 1970 for a increase of 16.7%. Arco has a population of 1364 compared to 1244 in 1970 for a increase of 9.6%. Arco was changed from a village to a second class city April, 1951. Butte City was entered as a village in April of 1951. The major Butte County mining districts are Hamilton, Dome, Lava Creek and the Wilbert Mining Districts. The county has five precincts located at Clyde, Howe, Moore and Arco #1 and Arco #2. There are three districts in the county as follows: Moore and vicinity, Arco and vicinity and Howe and vicinity.

II. DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Butte County is located in South-Central Idaho along the Big and Little Lost River drainages. The Arco Atomic Energy Commission is located in the Eastern part of the county, and the Craters of the Moon National Monument is located in the South-western portion of the county. There are 1,433,088 acres of land in the county. According to the 1975 census, there are 175 farms in the county. The acreage on these farms represents 12.2% of the total acreage in the county. There are 55,971 acres of crop land, and 100,071 acres of grazing land. The average size of the farms is 892 acres. There is one small sawmill in the county. It is not operating at present.

A large portion of the land in Butte County belongs to the government. There are 600,519 acres of grazing land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. There are 247,669 acres of land in National Forests in the County. This includes 196,648 acres in the Challis National Forest and 51,021 acres in the Targhee National Forest. In the Southern part of the county, 40,920 acres are included in the Craters of the Moon National Monument. During the past 22 years approximately 572,000 acres in the Eastern part of the county has been taken over by the Federal Government for an Idaho Nuclear Energy Laboratory Site.

Because such a large area of the county is owned by the Federal Government and is not taxable, the total taxable valuation of the county is comparatively low. The taxable evaluation of the county in 1977 was \$9,729,801.94.

The elevation of the farming area throughout the county is approximately a mile high. The temperature is subject to extremes. The average, over 29 years, is a maximum of 102°F. and a minimum of -46°F., with an average July temperature of 66.4°F. The average growing season is 97 days. The climate is arid. The average rainfall is 9.38 inches annually.

The farming area is divided into the Big and Little Lost River drainages. These two valleys are divided by a rather high range of mountains. The mountainous terrain on both sides of the valley result in a special weather problem in various sections of the county. Some areas of the valleys receive the late frosts in the spring and early frosts in the fall. These greatly reduce the length of the growing season. This handicaps those areas in total crop production.

The county is served by a branch of the Union Pacific Railroad out of a terminal at Blackfoot, Idaho. The train makes one trip a day five days a week to Butte County. Generally this is adequate train service for the business of the county. If there is no business the train does not make the trip.

There is a good network of state highways through all areas of the county. Although there is still need of some improvement on the highway, considerable progress has been made since the Nuclear Laboratory moved into the eastern part of the county. There is some interest in stimulating the construction of a road to run from Arco to Minidoka. It is felt this type of development could strengthen the market for cereal crops, alfalfa hay, seed potatoes and livestock.

Although the railroad and highway facilities in the county are fairly good, we are a considerable distance from some of the leading markets. This increases the cost of marketing farm produce shipped out of the valley.

The topography of the land throughout the valley is peculiar in that a large portion of the water produced in our water sheds does not reach our farming areas. Our rivers are called Lost Rivers. A large part of the water disappears and sinks in the Chilly and Darlington areas and any surplus water that passes through the valley disappears in the Howe sinks at the edge of the lava east of Howe. The peculiar condition of our water sheds makes water conservation one of our major problems.

The county is divided into six (6) communities. In the Big Lost River Valley there are Arco, Lost River, Moore and Darlington. In the Little Lost River Valley there are Howe and Clyde. Arco is the main shopping center

for the county. Secondary shopping areas are located at Darlington, Moore and Howe. There are no shopping facilities in Lost River or at Clyde.

The farming areas in both valleys are rather narrow. This enables most of the farmers to gain access to the state highway without traveling very far. Probably the only exception is the upper end of the Little Lost River Valley at Clyde, and a few farmers located at Antelope. According to the census, the average distance to the trading center visited most frequently is nine (9) miles.

The consolidation of the schools in the county has made it necessary to keep roads open the year around. Generally the roads are kept open in all areas of the county. However, many areas of the valley are closed temporarily at times because of severe weather conditions. The county is doing a better job of keeping the farm to market roads open with the addition of more and better equipment.

Our utilities are good. Electricity is available to all areas of the county at present. Telephone service is available to all areas since service was extended to the Howe area of the Little Lost River in 1963. Farmers in the Clyde area of the county are served by a private line that they maintain. The condition and service from this line is very poor. They need reliable telephone service and are trying to interest Mountain Bell Telephone Company in extending telephone service to their area of the county.

The Lost Rivers Hospital is county owned and was dedicated December 15, 1959. It was originally a ten-bed hospital but was expanded to a fourteen bed hospital effective January 1, 1971. The Nursing Home was dedicated February 16, 1969. It has a capacity of ten and has only had 100% occupancy a few times since it was dedicated. The hospital has been full on occasions with beds in the hall. This emphasizes the need for an organized home health care program in the area where nurse and doctor care is available. The Hospital and Nursing Home are county owned. The Hospital and Nursing Home serve a Hospital District that includes the South end of Custer County and all of Butte County. It is administered by a Hospital Administrator and Board of Directors. One resident doctor and one dentist are available in the area.

At present, there is adequate classroom space in the Butte County School System. The construction of a modern elementary school building at Arco in 1966 has helped to solve a serious classroom shortage in the district. The Junior High School Building at Arco is over fifty years old and will have to be replaced or renovated before many more years but at present classroom space is adequate. In an economy move, the grade school at Moore was closed during the 1977 school year and the students were transported to the Arco schools.

The main religious activities in the county are the L.D.S., Baptist,

Catholic, and Episcopal Churches. These churches have available facilities but it is felt that additional space and improved facilities may be necessary in the near future.

The county has a main library located at Arco and a branch library located at the Howe Elementary School. The main library has 10,000 volumes and the selection of books is good. A full-time librarian administrator and three part-time assistants run the library. The branch library has about 500 volumes. This library is open nine months of the year while school is in session. The location of the library is convenient to furnish reference books and other books to help with the school curriculum. A part-time librarian opens the branch library three days a week for two hours each day. A reading room and public meeting room was added in 1972. Under present conditions the facilities are considered adequate.

Organizations active in the county are located at Arco, the county seat. There is one Cultural Arts Club active in the county. Other organizations are the Butte County Chamber of Commerce, the Arco Lions Club, the Lady Lions, and the Rotarians. The Chamber of Commerce includes all areas of the county and is probably the most important organization working for the welfare of the county. Other organizations active in the county are the Business and Professional Women (BPW), the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the Butte County Farm Bureau.

The Farm Bureau is the most representative farm organization in the county. There are 162 Farm Bureau members active in this organization. Its membership is made up of all areas in the Big and Little Lost River Valley. It includes all of Butte County and that portion of Custer County located in the Lost River Valley. The Grange is not active in Butte County. The N.F.O. has been active in the county.

The Masons are active in the county. They are a noteworthy fraternal group.

The P.T.A. is active in the county. A well attended active P.T.A. can render considerable service toward the guidance and administration of the Butte County School System.

Public agencies active in the county are the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the Farm Home Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service. Of the various agencies named, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation Service are the only two that maintain an office in Butte County. The Forest Service is administered out of Mackay, the Bureau of Land Management out of Idaho Falls, and the Farmer's Home Administration out of Idaho Falls. They have a branch office at Arco that is open one day a week. The efficiency of the various public agencies would be considerably improved if there were offices maintained in the county, and if they worked out of a central office building, preferably located in Arco.

Recreational facilities available in the county are varied. Outdoor recreational facilities are varied. Outdoor recreational facilities are very good. Fishing and hunting facilities are outstanding and are readily available to all people of the county. Conditions are outstanding for hiking, picnicking, and horseback riding. Tennis Courts are available at the Arco and Moore schools, Gym facilities are available at the Arco Recreation Hall, the High School, the L.D.S. Churches at Arco, Lost River, Moore, and Leslie, and at the Baptist Church at Arco. The swimming pool and bowling alley, both constructed in Arco during 1961, provide additional recreational facilities. For winter recreation, there is a privately owned ski hill called Blizzard Mountain, located 17 miles south-west of Arco. The Arco Lions Club sponsor a very active ski school each January for six weeks and have been averaging approximately 100 students each year. The school hasn't been active for the past two years because of the lack of snow.

There is one theater in Arco. The facilities at the theater are fairly good.

Programs available to the young people are the Cub and Boy Scouts, Brownies and Girl Scouts, 4-H Club Work, Little League Softball, Future Farmers of America, Grid Kid Football, and Future Homemakers of America. In addition to these programs, the recreation programs carried out by the City of Arco, and the four (4) L.D.S. Churches should be mentioned.

Generally speaking, shopping facilities could be improved. Many of the farmers are forced to go to Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, or Pocatello to take care of at least part of their shopping needs.

Weather conditions in the upper antelope valley and the Little Lost River Valley present a special problem to those farmers in these areas. At times the roads are closed, making it rather difficult to get their children to and from school and to carry out the business of modern day farming. It is necessary for the High School students in the Clyde area to travel about 55 miles one way, to attend the Butte High School at Arco.

III. NATURAL RESOURCES

1. LAND. There are 1,433,088 acres of land in Butte County. According to the 1975 census, there are 175 farmers in the county. The acreage on these farms is 156,042 acres. Acreage in farms represents 10.9 percent of the total acreage in the county. There are 55,971 acres in crop land and 11,564 acres of the crop land are used for pasture only. All other crop land amounts to 3,810 acres. Woodland including woodland pasture reported by six farms total 1,287 acres. There is a total of 47,719 irrigated acres and 98,784 acres of private owned grazing land. The average size of farms in the county is 892 acres. A large portion of the land in Butte County belongs to

the government. This makes access to this land for grazing purposes on a permit basis very important to the economy of the county. The farming area is divided into the Big and Little Lost River drainage. These two valleys are divided by a rather high range of mountains. The mountainous terrain on both sides of the valley results in special weather problems in various sections of the county. Some areas of the valley receive late frost in the spring and early frost in the fall. These greatly reduce the length of the growing season. This handicaps those areas in total crop production.

The following information is based on the 1970 census which is the most recent information available at this time. Of the private owned agricultural land and rented state land under irrigation, 1,393 acres of land is classified as Class II land. Soils in Class II have few limitations or hazards. Simple conservation practices are needed when cultivated. They are suited to cultivated crops, pasture, range, woodland, or wildlife. Class III land under irrigation amounts to 63,844 acres. Soils in Class III have more limitations and hazards than those in Class II. They require more difficult or complex conservation practices when cultivated. They are suited to cultivated crops, pasture, range, woodland, or wildlife. Class IV land under irrigation amounts to 12,384 acres. Soils in Class IV have greater limitations and hazards than Class III. Still more difficult or complex measures are needed when cultivated. They are suited to cultivated crops, pasture, range, woodland or wildlife. This gives a total of 77,621 acres of both private and state owned land under irrigation in the county. Climatic conditions in the county prevents land reaching the classification of Class I land. In the pasture and range land together, including both private and state land, there is 4,600 acres Class III land, 46,370 acres Class IV land, 92,181 acres Class VI land, 57,824 acres Class VII land and 1,943 acres Class VIII land. Class VI land is suitable for pasture, range, woodland or wildlife. Class VII land is suitable for grazing, woodland or wildlife. Class VIII land is suitable for recreation, wildlife or water supply. This gives us a total of 202,918 acres of private and state pasture and range land.

2. WATER. The average annual rainfall based on an average of over 29 years, is 9.38 inches annually. Most of this moisture falls in the form of snow during the winter months. The spring, summer and fall months are usually dry and little moisture falls during these seasons of the year. The temperature is not excessive in this county so evaporation is not a serious problem. Because of the dry condition of the county and the low annual rainfall, run-off is not a serious problem. The only time we experience a problem with run-off is when we have a cloud burst in some isolated area of the county. Domestic water is obtained through deep wells. The average water available for irrigation from the Big Lost River is measured near Mackay at 168 thousand acre feet for an April to September forecast period. The average water available from the Little Lost River measured near Howe is 37,800 acre feet. The only water storage is the Mackay Reservoir located on the Big Lost River

drainage. It's capacity is 44,200 acre feet. Water stored is inadequate to meet the water requirements of the farmers in the county. The Little Lost River Valley depends entirely on the natural run-off for their irrigation needs. This prevents a serious problem during years of dry conditions.

The water distribution system is inadequate and serious losses are encountered during the distribution of irrigation water. Because of the uncertain water conditions in the county, many farmers have invested in deep wells for irrigation purposes. There are 142 deep wells in the Big Lost River valley and 95 deep wells in the Little Lost River Valley. Farmers in the Big Lost River Valley are lifting water on an average of about 60 feet. Underground water supplies in the Big Lost River is very good. The underground water supplies in the Little Lost River is fair to poor. Some of the farmers have experienced interference with wells in that area. In the area northeast of Howe, it is not uncommon to turn one well on and have it affect the water output from surrounding wells.

The drought experienced in 1977 in the Western States created a serious water condition in the Lost River area. This has stimulated considerable interest in drilling new wells and a rapid shift from surface irrigation to sprinkler irrigation. The shift to sprinklers provides much improved and needed water conservation. Although the rapid shift to sprinklers conserves water it does require more energy. With the rapid increase in the cost of energy and the fast approaching shortage of energy at economical costs in the United States, this may result in serious economical problems in the future.

By using newly drilled and existing deep wells, farmers were able to harvest normal crops during the 1977 drought.

3. CLIMATE. The elevation of the farming area throughout the county is approximately a mile high. The temperature is subject to extremes. The average over 29 years is a maximum of 102 degrees Fahrenheit and a minimum of -46 degrees Fahrenheit with an average July temperature of 66.4 degrees Fahrenheit. The average growing season is 97 days. The climate is arid. The average rainfall is 9.38 inches annually. The prevailing winds are from the west. Wind conditions are mild during the fall and winter and quite severe during the spring and summer months.

4. OTHER RESOURCES. The major minerals found in Butte County are silver, lead and copper. The assessment work is done on several claims annually but no mine is in commercial production at present in the county.

Recreational facilities in the county are varied. Outdoor recreational facilities are very good. Fishing and hunting facilities are outstanding and readily available to all people of the county. Conditions are outstanding for hiking, picnicking and horse back riding. Tennis courts are available at the Arco and Moore schools. Gyms are available at the Arco Recreation

Hall, the High School, the L.D.S. Churches at Arco, Lost River, Moore, and Leslie and at the Baptist Church at Arco. The swimming pool and bowling alley, both constructed in Arco during 1961 provide additional recreational facilities. Other recreational facilities available to the people of Butte County include a lighted softball field at the Lost River L.D.S. Church and lighted softball, football and rodeo grounds at the Butte County Fair Grounds. The lighted softball field and the swimming pool provide valuable facilities for summer recreation. There is one theater in Arco and the facilities at the theater are fairly good. There is one theater at Mackay, located in a neighboring county. This community is 26 miles north of Arco. A ski lift was constructed south of Arco during 1962. It is a valuable recreational resource during the winter months. Wildlife resources are very good. Bird hunting in the area include pheasants, ducks, sage hens and chucker partridges. Deer hunting and fishing are good in the Lost River area. There is a possibility for fish farm construction and development in the county.

The county is served by a branch of the Union Pacific Railroad out of a terminal at Blackfoot, Idaho. The train makes one trip a day to Butte County five days a week. Generally, this is adequate train service for the business of the county. There is a good network of state highways to all areas of the county. Although there is still need of some improvements on the hiways, considerable progress was made when the Atomic Energy Commission moved in to the eastern part of the county. Although the railroad and hiway facilities in the county are fairly good we are a considerable distance from some of the leading markets. This increases the cost of marketing farm produce shipped out of the valley.

There is some interest in a new road from Arco to Minidoka. This road would make recreation resources available to more people. One of the main advantages would be an added advantage in the movement of agricultural produce to market. So far the construction of this proposed road is just in the talking stage.

The location of the Idaho Nuclear Energy Laboratory in the eastern part of the county has had considerable effect on the total business transacted in the county. Some of the farmers in Butte County work at the I.N.E.L. The high wages paid at the I.N.E.L. presents a serious problem for agricultural interests in the county. It is difficult to obtain reliable labor at a price a farmer can afford to pay and many times labor is unavailable for agricultural work.

IV. PRESENT USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. CROPS, RANGE, PASTURE AND TREES. There are 55,971 acres in cropland and 100,078 acres in grazing land in Butte County. Crop acreage include 13,500 acres of alfalfa hay, 1,500 acres of meadow grass hay, 4,000 acres of potatoes, 6,300 acres wheat, 8,800 acres barley, 1,144 acres of oats and about

3,500 acres of mixed grain. The average yield in the county per acre is about 210 sacks of potatoes per acre, 70.67 bushels of wheat per acre on the irrigated land and about 31 bushels per acre on non-irrigated wheat, 63.4 bushels barley on the irrigated land and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 ton of alfalfa hay per acre. The wheat yield including dry land wheat is 66.3 bushels per acre. There are 98,784 acres of private owned dry land in grazing land. A portion of this grazing land is un-improved land that is used for grazing purposes. The carrying capacity of our more productive grazing land in the county is relatively low. There are very few units that would pasture over two cows, per acre.

Our native grass ranges have been improved considerably during the last twenty years. About 60,000 acres of sagebrush range have been reseeded. Most of these acres was plowed to eliminate the brush and crested wheatgrass was seeded as the major grass species. Siberian wheat grass and Nordan crested wheat grass have been planted during recent years, but the major variety is the standard crested wheat variety. Our range reseeding have been more successful where we went in and double disced the area to be reseeded. to eliminate the brush before drilling and the drillings were made late in the year so the seed would not germinate until the following spring. This way, we took advantage of the winter moisture to establish the grass species. The seeding rate has ranged from 5 to 7 pounds of crested wheat grass per acre. Observations on the reseeded plots indicate that a seeding rate of 5 to 7 pounds is adequate for soil and moisture conditions in our area. About one-third of the reseeded acres are on private ground and two-thirds are on public land where the livestock producer has cooperated with the Bureau of Land Management to establish the reseeding. Under this type of cooperative agreement, both parties share in the financial cost of establishing the reseeded grasses. The carrying capacity of the crested wheat grass ranges vary from a low of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres per animal unit per month to a high of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres per animal unit per month. The production on these reseeded ranges is determined by moisture conditions and the soil on the piece of ground that is reseeded. Environmental restrictions have almost eliminated range improvement development on Federal land during the past few years.

Because of the low moisture conditions in Butte County very little work has been done in establishing forest products on private lands in the county. Considerable work has been done in the establishment of shelter belts, woodlots and windbreaks in the county. Butte County farmers are ordering trees from the Clark-McNary Nursery at the University of Idaho at the rate of about 3,000 per year. These trees are distributed to 10 to 15 growers annually. The results of this tree planting program are starting to show up throughout the agricultural areas of the county. Many farms have a well established windbreak for wind protection now that did not have trees previously.

There is entirely too much feed sold from farms in Butte County. According to a survey recently completed, about 35,000 ton of high quality alfalfa hay is sold from farms in Butte County annually and around 370,000 bushels of feed grains is sold annually. Around 10,000 high quality feeder calves are sold annually. Encouraging the feeding of livestock in the county to

utilize the high quality livestock feeds that are shipped from the county annually is a possible future development.

2. LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY. Beef cattle is the major enterprise in Butte County. According to the 1974 census report, 132 farms reported 25,341 cattle and 120 farmers reported the sale of 11,166 head. Of the cattle reported, 103 farms reported 12,203 beef cows. Fifty-five farms reported 1,276 milk cows. Sixteen farms reported 151 head of pigs and 12 farmers reported the sale of 206 head of hogs. Forty-four farmers reported 22,634 head of sheep and 17,984 sold. Sixty-six farmers reported 534 horses. Twenty-six farmers reported 6,471 hens and pullets.

Hereford cattle is the major cattle breed in Butte County. There are a few Angus cattle, but not many. The present trend is toward more beef cattle and less sheep in the county. Milk cows are increasing, and trends indicate dairy cow numbers will continue to increase. Swine numbers decreased in the county about fifteen years ago and to date numbers have not increased. The sheep numbers in Butte County is fairly stable and hasn't varied much during recent years. Present indications are that we have reached a low and sheep numbers will remain fairly stable for the next few years. The poultry in Butte County is fairly steady, and indicates that we will hold about that number during the next few years. Sixty percent of the farmers indicate they have beef cattle, 31% of the farmers indicate they have milk cows, 14% of the farmers indicate they have hogs and pigs, 25% of the farmers indicate they have sheep and lambs, and 15% of the farmers indicate they have chickens. Farmers fattening cattle varies from year to year. The low price of fat cattle and the high price of feed has discouraged feeding. At present, the price of feed is down and the sale price of beef is starting to move up so this may cause a increase in cattle on feed. Cattle in the feedlots for fattening varies from year to year. There is adequate public range and private grass in the county to take care of the livestock needs for our livestock industry. We produce adequate feeds and ranch hay supplies to take care of livestock needs. There is very little feed shipped into the county. We are a surplus producing county and we export about 35,000 tons of hay and about 370,000 bushel of grain annually.

3. OTHER FACTORS. The major crops grown in Butte County include potatoes, alfalfa, cereal crops and pasture. The crop rotation included a legume about 50% of the time. A crop rotation that many farmers in the area are using is 3 years in alfalfa, 2 years in grain, and 1 year in potatoes. The average size of farms in Butte County is 892 acres with an average of 255.33 acres of cropland. The tenure of farm operators in the county is as follows: Full owners, 75%; part owners, 23%; and tenants, 2%. There has been little change in these percentages over the past ten years.

The average age of all farm operators according to the 1970 census is 51.4 years. Fifty-five percent of the farmers work off the farm and 36% of the farmers work 100 days or more off the farm. Thirty-three percent

of the farmers in the county earn more income from sources other than agriculture than they do from farming. Land mortgages in Butte County are 78 as recorded from January through November, 1977 as compared to 86 recorded January, 1971 through April, 1972.

4. LIMITING FACTORS. Because of our low annual rainfall we produce very little timber in the county. There is a little timber produced in our higher elevations, probably about enough for our posts and corral poles needed in the county. There is one small sawmill in the county. It is located at Arco. Because of finances and the long haul for timber, it is a question whether a sawmill can operate at a profit. That is probably the reason the sawmill is not operating at present.

Coyotes, bobcats and jack rabbits are the major pests found in our area.

Our cattle producers are confronted with an increase in occurrence of calf scours and in a few instances, this has been a serious problem. Crooked calves is another serious disease affecting cattle producers. About 1% to 3% of the calves from cattle that graze in a certain area of the county are born with crooked legs, crooked back or arched neck, and in many instances it is necessary to kill these calves or they are born dead. Research on the problem indicates it is caused from cattle eating of lupine. Other diseases affecting cattle in this area include Anaplasmosis, Enterotoxemia, Vibrio, Black Disease, IBR, BVD, Pneumonia and BlackLeg.

The cost of transportation is a serious problem in our area. We have a spur of the Union Pacific Railroad serving the county and a good network of state highways, but the distance from major markets makes the cost of marketing very high.

Irrigation water is a serious problem in our area. We have a very large water shed that produces enough water to serve the area, but we have a peculiarity in our water shed. There is two areas where the water disappears under ground. They are the Chilly Sinks and the Darlington Sinks. It is felt that we have sufficient water if we had some means of by-passing these sinks to get the water to the irrigation areas of the county. There is no storage in the Little Lost River Valley and they are confronted with a shortage of irrigation water almost on an annual basis. The distribution system in the Big Lost River Valley is a serious problem also. Many of our irrigation canals do not have adequate capacity and delivery losses are too high. The productivity of our soils is very good. With improved farming methods, production has been increasing during the past few years. Farmers are doing a better job of distributing their barnyard manure and are increasing the amount of commercial fertilizers they are using. This has helped increase the production in the county. Weather conditions are a serious problem. The elevation of our agricultural area is about a mile high, we

have mountains on both sides of the farming area. This makes a serious problem because of frost and a short growing season. The average growing season in the county is 97 days, but some years we get a light frost every month of the year. This greatly affects crop production in our area. The 237 plus irrigation wells in the county provide supplemental irrigation water that helps provide irrigation water, especially on dry years.

V. INVENTORY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

1. THE PEOPLE. According to the latest information available, the population of Butte County is 3,240. This figures out about 1.3 persons per square mile in the county. Forty-three percent of the population is under 18 years of age, 47% in the age bracket from 18 to 62 years and 10% are 62 years or older. Fifty-one percent of the population is male and 49% is female. The population is 99.42% white. Of the seventeen classified non-white, fourteen are Indian children in foster homes in the county. About 60% of the population belong to the L.D.S. Church, 30% to the Baptist Church and 10% to the Catholic, Episcopalian and various other protestant religions. In the household, the family head is male in 667 families and female in 35 families. In 652 families both husband and wife are living together as a family unit. The birth rate is 17.1 per 1000 population; the death rate is 9.4 per 1000 population; the marriages are 20 and divorces and annulments are 10 per 1000 population. The average educational level of adults over 21 is not available. About 3% of the children of high school age are not attending high school. The school enrollment is 980 students. The median age for men in the county is 26 and for women is 25.4. In considering marital status for males 14 years old or older, there are 1,017 in the county. Two hundred seventy-five are single, 679 are married, 7 are separated, 26 are widowed and 37 are divorced. There are 969 females 14 years or older. One hundred ninety-six are single, 676 are married, 4 are separated, 66 are widowed and 31 are divorced.

2. THE FAMILY. Each family unit in the county consists of an average of 3.45 persons per family. Church facilities include L.D.S. Church at Howe, Leslie, Moore, Lost River and Arco, a Community Church at Howe, a Catholic, Baptist, Church of Christ and Episcopal at Arco. The major clubs and lodges active in the county are the Lions Club, Lady Lions, Rotary Club, Arco Chamber of Commerce, the Masons, the NFO, and the Farm Bureau.

VI. HOME AND FAMILY LIVING

Seventy-five percent of the people in Butte County own or are buying their own homes, and 23% are tenants. The average number of rooms per house is 5 rooms, the average number of persons per household is 3.44. Most of the homes in the county are in fair to good condition, electricity is available for all the homes in the county. Ninety-four percent of the homes in the county have a water supply in the house. Plumbing facilities is present

in 91% of the homes. One hundred percent of the homes in the county have access to radio or TV or both. Twenty-seven homes do not have T.V. The Howe area has had access to telephone service for about nine years. All homes have washing machines and about 68% of the homes have food freezers. Heating systems in the county include fuel oil, propane gas, electrical heat and coal. In Butte County, 37 homes are heated by utility gas, 442 homes by fuel oil, 27 homes by wood, 143 homes by electricity, and 236 homes by LP gas. The condition of buildings in the county is fair. During recent years considerable progress has been made towards home landscaping. People are taking a more active interest in landscaping their home and farmstead. The condition of yards and their appearance would rate fair to good in the county. Reading material includes a weekly newspaper published at Arco. The people have access to daily newspapers published at Pocatello, Idaho Falls, and Salt Lake City, Utah. The county has one library located at Arco with a branch library open three days a week for 9 months of the year at the Howe School House. Recreation facilities are good. We enjoy outstanding fishing and hunting. There is one showhouse in the county and the people have access to a bowling alley and swimming pool at Arco. Horse back riding, hiking, and picnicking provide recreational opportunities for all people of the county. Food markets are adequate and accessible to all people of the county. Grocery stores are located at Darlington, Moore, Arco and Howe. A public cold storage locker is not available. There are no canneries in the county. All students in the county have access to the school lunch program. There are three retail outlets for ready-to-wear clothing apparel. Adequate dry cleaning and laundry facilities are available at Arco to meet the needs of the people of the county.

Medical service available to the people of the county was greatly improved with the construction of the county hospital located at Arco. We have one doctor and one dentist living in the county. Arco and Moore has a modern sewage disposal system. Other areas of the county have to rely on septic tanks and disposal fields to eliminate their waste. The water supply and milk supply in all areas of the county is very good.

VII. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND FACILITIES

The main shopping area of the county is located at Arco. Arco has one large grocery store and three small grocery stores. There are three clothing stores, one barber shop, two drug stores, three hardware and two furniture stores. Shopping facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the people of the county.

Secondary shopping centers are located at Moore, Darlington, and Howe.

VIII. INVENTORY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

1. RURAL ORGANIZATIONS. Community planning committees active in the county include the City Council at Arco and the City Councils at Butte City and at Moore. The County Agent's Program Project Committee is a representative committee from all areas of the county. It meets and plans a five-year program to be carried out by the county agent's office. During the course of this five years, the committee meets periodically to help direct the program outlined by this committee. Farmers organizations active in the county include the Lost River Farm Bureau, which serves all areas of the county and the county NFO. Cooperative Marketing Associations include the Lost River Livestock Marketing Association and the Custer County Livestock Marketing Association. These two associations assist the farmers in marketing beef, sheep and wool. Commodity organizations include the High Altitude Certified Seed Growers Association and the North-Central Predatory Animal Association. Service clubs active in the county include the VFW, American Legion, Rotary, Lions and Lady Lions, and the Butte County Chamber of Commerce. Public agencies are the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service, the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary and the Lost River Valley Recreational Association. Other public agencies that work in the county include the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. These two offices do not maintain offices in Butte County.

The people are involved in a County Comprehensive Planning program. A county Council of Government is organized and a County Comprehensive Planning Committee is active in the county. Commodity committees are organized and active in the development of plans to be included in the County Comprehensive Plan for the county. Commodity committees include Land Use, Recreation, Housing, Transportation and Community Facilities and Services.

2. INSTITUTIONS. There is one high school in Butte County. It is located at Arco. It serves all the high school age students in the county. Primary schools are located at Arco, Moore, Howe and Clyde, but the school at Moore was closed this year for economy reasons. There are 287 high school students enrolled at present. Churches in the county include a Catholic, Baptist, Church of Christ, Episcopal located at Arco. A Community Church at Howe, Jehovah Witness Church at Moore and L.D.S. Churches located at Arco, Howe, Lost River, Moore and Leslie. The L.D.S. Church is the largest religious group active in the county.

The Butte County Bank located at Arco serves the entire county. Other loan agencies located in the county are Eastern Idaho Federal Credit Union, the Atomic Workers Credit Union and the Farmers Home Administration. Loan Agencies not located in the county, but doing considerable business are the Federal Land Bank, Production Credit Association and the Utah Mortgage Loan Company. The Farmers Home Administration has served the county

out of the Idaho Falls office in the past, but are presently in the process of setting up a permanent branch office in Arco. Telephone service is available to all areas of the county. The Clyde area of the Little Lost River Valley owns and maintains their own telephone line. This is made possible by the maintenance of an abandoned Forest Service line. Telephone service to this area of the county is very poor and needs to be replaced by modern telephone equipment. About half of the time telephone service is not available and when it is reception is poor. Electricity is available to all areas of the county. The county has a rural fire department that is active in the Big Lost River Valley. The rural fire department does not serve the Little Lost River Valley or isolated sections of the Big Lost River Valley. The roads in the county are fair to good. The average distance to the trading center visited most frequently is nine miles. The major community center is located at Arco. The population of Arco is 1364. The facilities at Arco are adequate to meet community needs. Health facilities were greatly improved with the construction of the Lost Rivers Hospital. A Nursing Home is operated in conjunction with the Lost Rivers Hospital. A privately owned Rest Home is in operation in the Northern end of the county at Darlington. We have one doctor, one dentist and adequate nurse service to meet the needs of the hospital.

The bonded indebtedness of the county for hospital bonds is \$118,000.00. The bonded indebtedness of the Independent School District, Joint Class A, No. 111 is \$227,137.50. The total bond indebtedness of all units in Butte County is \$345,137.50.

Fire protection is good in the city of Arco and in the rural fire district, located in the Big Lost River Valley. Adequate fire protection is not available to isolated areas of the Big Lost River Valley and for the entire Little Lost River area. The prevalence of accidents in Butte County is not excessive. Accidents do occur and it is unfortunate. However, the occurrence of farm, home and hiway accidents is not a serious problem in the area. With the trend to use more and more electrical power, adequate wiring will also be a problem for many years. Considerable growth has taken place in the county during the past 20 years and many of the new constructions have a fair to good electrical systems. For this reason, adequate electrical wiring may not be as serious in this area as in some of the areas throughout the state. The county has an active Search and Rescue organization. There may be a shortage of emergency facilities and shelters to meet the needs of the people in the county in case of emergency.

IX. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The development of youth into well rounded adults capable of making a living and taking part in the communities, state and national affairs is important to the nation and the well being of our young people. There are about 1000 boys and girls 19 years of age or younger in the county. Our educational facilities are restricted to the public schools. Youth programs active in the county include Boy Scouts, Brownies and Girls Scouts, Cub

Scouts, the 4-H Club Program, Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, the County Recreational program including Little League and Grid Kid programs and the recreational programs carried on by the various churches in the county. Religious training facilities are adequate in the county. The religious groups provide an active social and recreational program for the young people. Since we are in a thinly populated area, recreational facilities that are done in the outdoors are very good. Young people are able to take advantage of the very good fishing and hunting located in the county. Citizenship training programs are carried on by the various youth programs that are active in the county, through our county school program and through our church activities.