

POPULATION & ECONOMY

PART 1: KEY FINDINGS

1. Population Growth Trends

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County's (ADLC) population peaked in 1960 (full census count) at 18,640 people but has lost more than half of its population since then due to the closing of the copper smelter. The State of Montana projects that population will continue to decline over the next 15 years and then stabilize at around 7,800 people in 2025. Four of the counties surrounding ADLC have also experienced population loss since the year 2000. Population projections are generally based on existing trends, and any significant event in the County such as the development of base industries, increase in tourism, or significant in-migration from retirees could reverse the population decline. There was already positive in-migration into the county from 2007 to 2008, but a negative trend in the natural increase (deaths exceeding births) offset these gains.

2. Age Distribution

The median age in the County as of the 2000 Census was 42.3 years and was considerably older than the statewide average of 37.5 years. Almost one-third of households had an individual over age 65. If existing trends continue, projections indicate that the percent of the population over age 65 will increase from around 19% of the population to 29% of the population. The aging of the population is a nationwide trend and will have impacts on housing design, increase the demand on social services and create changes in the labor force. Additionally, the 65 and over age cohort is more likely to experience a disability. According to the 2000 Census, ADLC had a higher percentage of people with disabilities compared to the rest of the state and this was due in part to the higher percentage of people over 65 years of age. These trends can be expected to become more pronounced in future years.

3. Per Capita Income

Per capita income in the county has historically been lower than the statewide average. The county has a higher percentage of income that is derived from transfer payments such as social security, pensions, and unemployment. This is indicative of the older population in the County. The lower incomes in the County result in a higher proportion of individuals classified as below poverty levels compared to the rest of the state. One in four children under age 18 is living below poverty in the County. Although wages are lower in the county, most living costs are also generally lower than national averages.

4. Employment Trends

State and local government jobs represented the largest industry sector followed by the health care and accommodations/food services industries. The construction industry had the largest increase in employment from 2002 and 2007. Unemployment rates, however, were higher both in the county and statewide in 2009 and the construction industry has been one of the hardest hit sectors in the current recession.

5. Tourism

The economic impact from the agricultural economy has declined from 2002 to 2007 while contributions from the tourism economy have increased. Lodging tax collections experienced an increase with the opening of the Old Works Golf Course in 1996. Compared to other counties in the region however, ADLC collected lower lodging tax revenues than other counties of comparable population.

PART 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS

1. Population Change

According to the U.S. Census, the population of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County in 2009 was estimated at 8,792 and was the 23rd most populous County in the State out of 56 counties. The County population peaked in 1960 at 18,640 people. Population in the County has been closely linked with the operation of the former copper smelter run by the Anaconda Mining Company. Even when the smelter was active, however, there were population fluctuations depending on employment levels at the smelter. Since the smelter closed in 1980, the County has experienced steady population decline. From 1970 to 2000, the population declined by -39.8%. According to the most recent estimates, the population of the County has furthered declined by -6.3% from 2000 to 2009.

Table 1: Census Population 1930 to 2008 – Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, MT

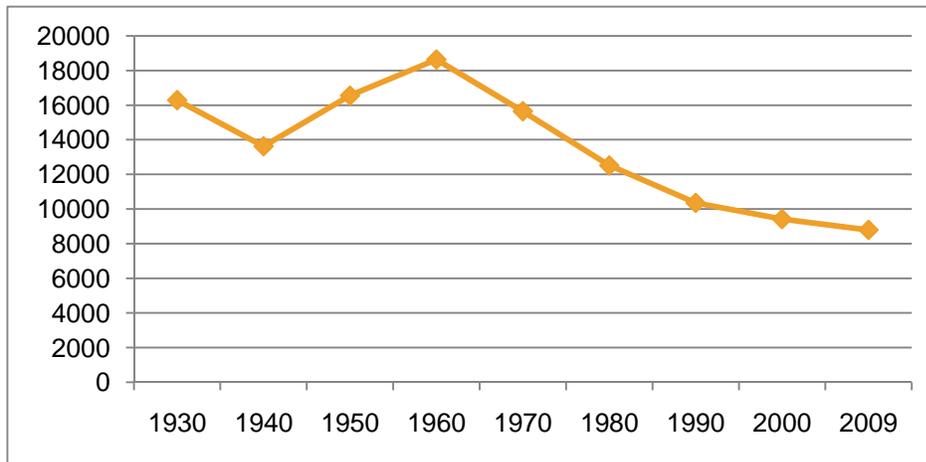
	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2009
Anaconda	12,494	11,004	11,254	12,054	9,771	---	---	---	---
Deer Lodge County	16,293	13,672	16,533	18,640	15,652	12,518	10,356	9,417	8,792

Source: U.S. Census of the Population 1930 -2000

Source: 2009 Population Estimate - U.S. Census – Population Division

Note: After the 1990 census, the City of Anaconda and Deer Lodge County became a consolidated government so population figures are only available on a countywide basis starting with the 1980 Census.

Figure 1: Population Growth in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County 1930 – 2009



Source: U.S. Census of Population

2. Dynamics of Population Change

The statewide population grew 7.9% from 2000 to 2009. Regionally, however, the four surrounding counties of Butte-Silverbow, Powell, Granite, and Beaverhead all experienced a decline in population over this period. ADLC had the largest decline in the region over the last nine years.

The other two adjoining counties, Ravalli and Jefferson, were among the fastest growing counties in the State. These two counties are both adjacent to major employment centers and consequently are experiencing some spillover growth from residents that are commuting to jobs in either Missoula or Helena. Additionally, there is significant growth from retirees relocating to these counties.

Table 2: Population Change in Surrounding Counties

County	2000	2007	2009	2000 - 2009% Change
ADLC	9,417	8,838	8,792	(-6.3%)
Butte-Silverbow	34,606	32,602	32,949	(-4.6)
Powell	7,180	7,115	7,089	(-1.2%)
Granite	2,830	2,841	2,879	1.3%
Beaverhead	9,202	8,807	8,976	(-2.3%)
Ravalli	36,070	40,331	40,431	11.4%
Jefferson	6,851	11,090	11,470	13.8%
Montana	902,190	956,624	974,989	7.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Estimates of the Population"

Other components of population change include natural increase and net immigration. Natural increase is defined as the number of births in the county minus the number of deaths. ADLC had the largest regional rate of decline for natural increase with deaths exceeding births. Only Powell County experienced a similar negative natural increase. The rate of net immigration is calculated by subtracting the number of people who move out of the county from the number who relocate to the county. In the most recent year that data is available, ADLC had a negative rate of immigration.

Table 3: Rates for Various Components of Population Change

County	Natural Increase 2008-2009	Net Migration 2008-2009
ADLC	(-5.0)	(-8.1)
Butte-Silverbow	(-0.1)	5.3
Powell	(-4.2)	12.0
Granite	1.0	5.6
Beaverhead	1.3	(-1.6)
Ravalli	0.3	(-3.9)
Jefferson	0.9	14.9
Montana	4.2	2.8

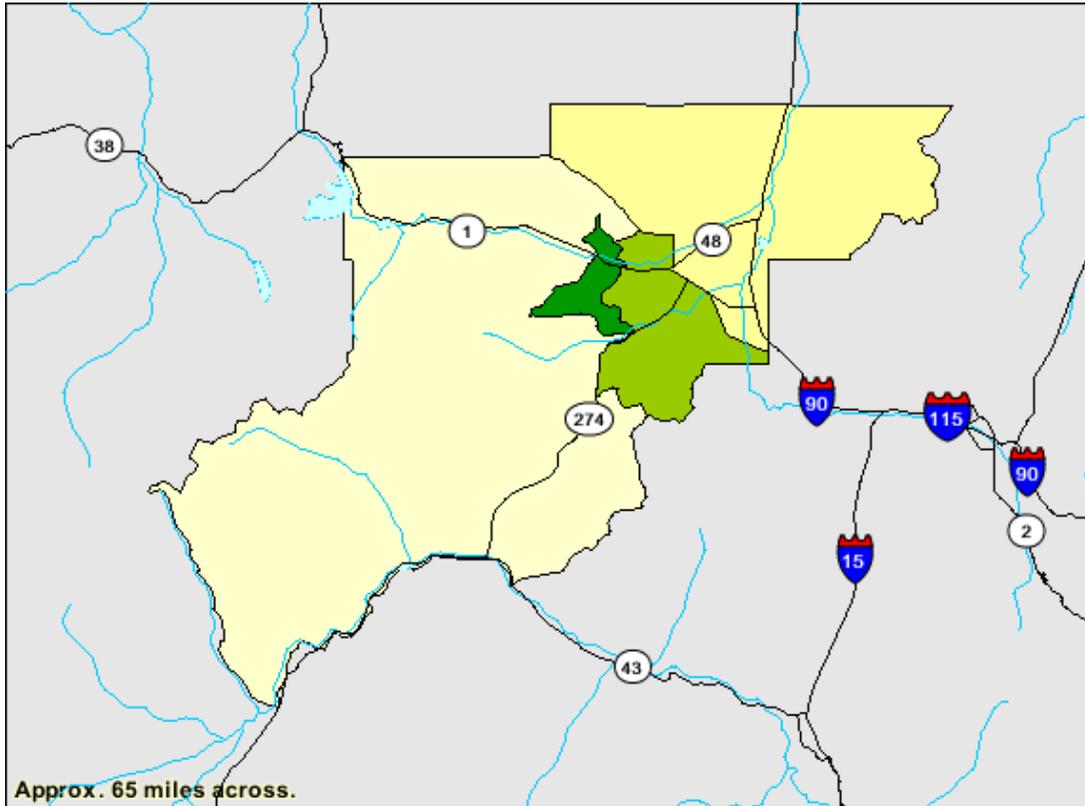
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Estimates of the Rates of the Components of Population Change"

Note: Rates per 1000 average population

3. Population Distribution

According to the 2000 Census, population in the County was concentrated around the area that, prior to 1980, was the incorporated City of Anaconda. East of Anaconda and around the Opportunity area are other concentrations of people. Smaller pockets of population include the Galen, Warm Springs, Georgetown Lake and the West Valley areas.

Map 1: Population Density – Anaconda –Deer Lodge County



Data Classes

Persons/Sq Mile	
Lightest Yellow	3 - 3
Light Yellow	7 - 7
Light Green	55 - 55
Dark Green	240 - 240

Features

- Major Road
- Street
- Stream/Waterbody
- Stream/Waterbody

Items in graytext
are not visible
at this zoom level

4. Population Projections

According to the Montana Census and Economic Information Center, the total population for the County is projected to continue to decline through the year 2025. Long term projections indicate that population levels should stabilize at around 7,800 people. Population projections, however, are generally based on existing trends. Any fundamental change in these trends, such as the County's economic development efforts beginning to bear fruit and bring jobs and dollars into the local economy, could reverse this trend of population decline.

Table 4: Population Projections for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Year	Projected Population
2010	8,530
2015	8,170
2020	7,870
2025	7,800
2030	7,860

Source: Montana Census and Economic Information Center, Dept. of Commerce & NPA Data Services

5. Age and Gender Distribution

The median age in ADLC in the year 2000 was 42.3 years. This is greater than the statewide median age of 37.5 years. Additionally, 18.8% of the population was age 65 and over compared to 13.4% statewide. It is projected by the year 2030, 28.8% of the population will be age 65 and over. While females comprise 50.1% of the overall population, they comprise 59% of the population age 65 and over.

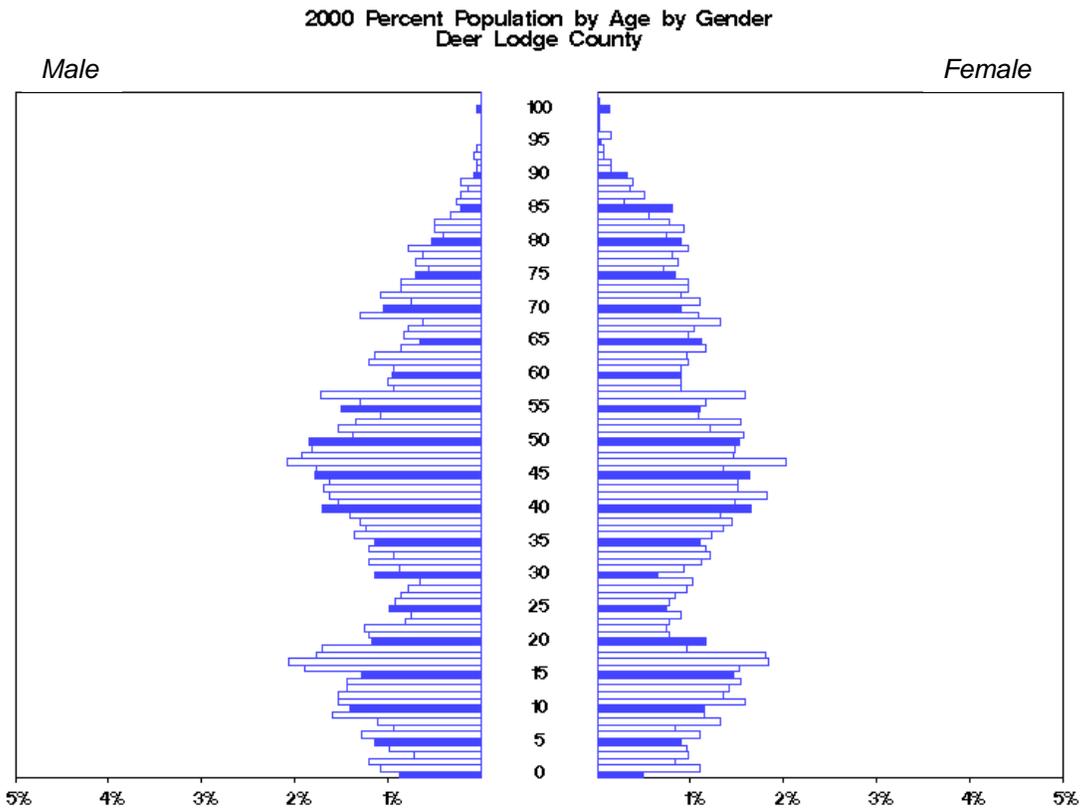
Table 5: Population by Age

Age Group	Number	Percent
Under 5	433	4.6
5-9	536	5.7
10-14	679	7.2
15-19	767	8.1
20-24	448	4.8
25-34	893	9.5
35-44	1367	14.5
45-54	1480	15.8
55-59	570	6.1
60-64	470	5.0
65-74	901	9.6
75-84	644	6.8
85+	229	2.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census - 2000

The population pyramid in Figure 2 illustrates some of these population characteristics. There is a significant drop-off in the 20-24 age group due to young adults leaving for college or jobs. The bulk of the population is in the baby-boomer age group. The pyramid becomes weighted on the right side with the older age cohorts representing a larger share of females in the age 65 and over segment of the population. This pattern of baby boomers, 'baby bust', and 'echo boomers' is almost identical to the age characteristics for the state as a whole.

Figure 2 : Population Pyramid – Anaconda - Deer Lodge County



Source: Montana Census and Economic Information Center, <http://ceic.mt.gov/PopPyramidCnty.asp>

6. Population by Race

In 2000, the population of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County was predominantly white (95.9%) with American Indian comprising the largest minority group. Statewide, 90.6% of the population identified themselves as white. For the first time in the 2000 Census, there was a category for “Two or More Races”. This category accounted for 1.6% of the population.

Table 6: Population by Race

Race	Number	Percent
White	9,028	95.9
Black or African American	16	0.2
American Indian and Alaska Native	167	1.8
Asian	34	0.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.0
Some other race	17	0.2
Two or more races	154	1.6
Hispanic or Latino	155	1.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of the Population, 2000

7. Education

In 2000, the percentage of people in ADLC who have attained at least a high school diploma was 84.5% compared to the State average of 87.2%. The percent of persons with a Bachelor's degree or higher is 14.7% compared to a State average of 24.4%.

Table 7: Educational Attainment – Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Educational Attainment	Number	Percent
Population 25 years and over	6,584	100.0
Less than 9th grade	395	6.0
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	623	9.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	2,830	43.0
Some college, no degree	1,452	22.1
Associate degree	313	4.8
Bachelor's degree	700	10.6
Graduate or professional degree	271	4.1
Percent high school graduate or higher	n/a	84.5
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	n/a	14.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of the Population – 2000

8. Disability

The U.S. Census includes the following categories for disabilities.

- Sensory Disability - blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment
- Physical Disability - a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying
- Mental Disability - learning, remembering, or concentrating
- Self-care Disability - dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home
- Mobility Disability - going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office
- Employment Disability - working at a job or business

Table 8 : Disability Status for Anaconda-Deer Lodge Population

Disability Status of the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	Number	Percent
Population 5 to 20 years	196	9.3
Population 21 to 64 years	1,158	23.2
Population 65 years and over	736	43.5

Source: U.S. Census of the Population - 2000

According to this definition, the 2000 Census indicated that 23.2% of adults in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County age 21 to 64 had a disability compared to 16.9% statewide. The percentage of seniors over age 65 experiencing a disability (43.5%) in the county was also higher than the state average of 39.6%. As the population ages, the demands for specialized housing to accommodate individuals with disabilities will increase.

9. Household Characteristics

Nearly two-thirds of households in the year 2000 were classified as family households comprised of related married couples, parents and children. Of non-family households, which include single persons or non-related persons sharing a dwelling unit, 91% are comprised of persons living alone compared to 81% statewide. Almost one-third of households had an individual over age of 65 compared to just 23.4% for the State of Montana. In ADLC, the average household size is 2.26 and is somewhat less than the state average of 2.47 people per household.

Table 9: Household Characteristics – Anaconda-Deer Lodge, MT

Household Characteristics	Number	Percent
Total households	3,995	100.0
Family households	2,526	63.2
With own children under 18 years	1,031	25.8
Married-couple family	1,999	50.0
With own children under 18 years	713	17.8
Female householder, no husband present	375	9.4
With own children under 18 years	225	5.6
Nonfamily households	1,469	36.8
Householder living alone	1,336	33.4
Householder 65 years and over	667	16.7
Households with individuals under 18 years	1,095	27.4
Households with individuals 65 years and over	1,296	32.4
Average household size (All households)	2.26	n/a
Average family size	2.84	n/a

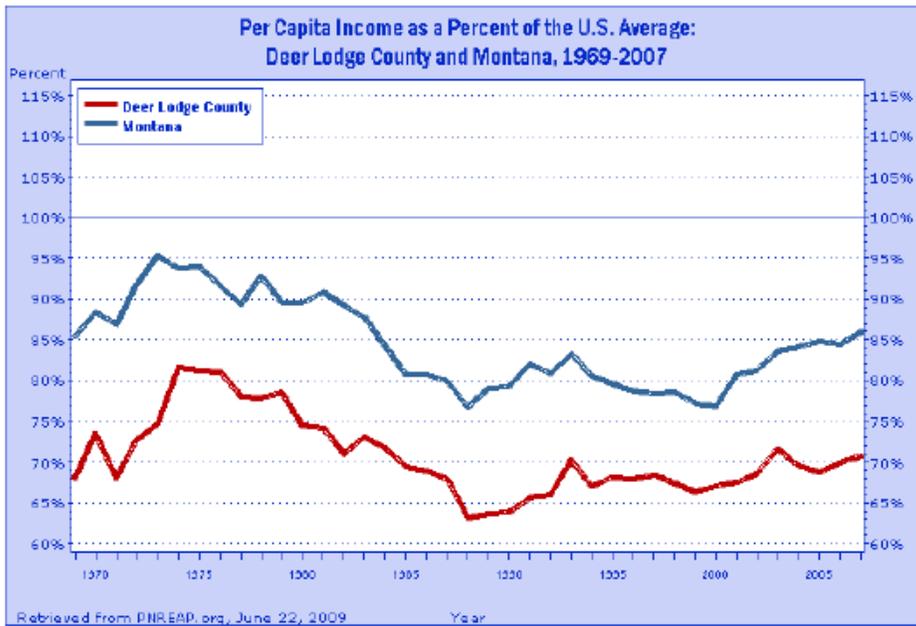
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population, 2000

10. Income (Per Capita)

In 2007, ADLC had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$28,854. This PCPI ranked 41th in the state and was 83 percent of the state average of \$34,622, and 72 percent of the national average of \$40,166. The 2008 PCPI reflected an increase of 3.1 percent from 2007. The 2007-2008 statewide change was 2.0 percent and the national change was 2.0 percent. In 1998 the PCPI of ADLC was \$18,410 and ranked 36th in the state. The 1998-2008 average annual growth rate of PCPI was 4.7 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 4.9 percent and for the nation was 4.0 percent.

Figure 3 highlights ADLC and Montana per capita income relative to national trends by tracking their per capita incomes as a percent of the national average over 1969-2007. Note that per capita income for ADLC has been consistently below both the State and the national averages. The fluctuations relative to the national average are similar for ADLC and the State averages. In 1969, Deer Lodge County's per capita income amounted to 68.07% of the national average; in 2007, it comprised 70.74%. Similarly, in 1969, Montana's per capita income totaled 85.48% of the national average; in 2007 it consisted of 86.04%.

Figure 3: Per Capita Income as a Percent of U.S. Average



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Analysis Project (www.pnreap.org)

11. Personal Income by Type

Total personal income includes net earnings by place of residence; dividends, interest, and rent collections; and personal current transfer receipts received by the residents of ADLC. In 2008 net earnings accounted for 51 percent of TPI (compared with 60% in 1998); dividends, interest, and rent were 20 percent (compared with 21 in 1998); and personal current transfer receipts were 29 percent (compared with 26% in 1997). Compared to the statewide average, a larger portion of income in the County comes from transfer payments such as social security, pensions, unemployment, disability, and other payments.

Table 10: Personal Income by Type - 2007

Personal Income	ADLC	Montana
Net earnings	51%	61%
Dividends, Interest, and Rent	20%	22%
Transfer Payments	29%	17%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (<http://www.bea.gov/regional/bearfacts>)

From 2007 to 2008 net earnings increased 2.7 percent; dividends, interest, and rent collections increased 2.2 percent; and personal current transfer receipts increased 6.5 percent. From 1998 to 2008 net earnings increased on average 3.4 percent each year; dividends, interest, and rent collections increased on average 2.6 percent; and personal current transfer receipts increased on average 4.7 percent.

12. Poverty

Poverty status is defined by family; either everyone in the family is in poverty or no one in the family is in poverty. The characteristics of the family used to determine the poverty threshold are: number of people, number of related children under 18, and whether or not the primary householder is over age 65. Family income is then compared to the poverty threshold; if that family's income is below the threshold, the family is classified as being in poverty.

Each year the U.S. Census Bureau establishes thresholds to measure the number of people living below a certain income level. The numbers are used to formulate economic policy and distribute social service aid. The poverty threshold in 2009 for a single individual was \$10,956 and for a family with 2 adults and 2 children it was \$21,756.

According to the 2008 Census Small Area Estimates, 17.5% of the ADLC population is below poverty levels and 21.4% of families with children are below the poverty line. Children under age 18 are more likely to be living in poverty than any other group. Compared to the State of Montana, poverty levels are higher in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. Note that median household income in the county is substantially lower than the State average.

Table 11: Poverty Levels in Anaconda–Deer Lodge County - 2008

% in Poverty	ADLC	Montana
All ages in Poverty	17.5%	14.1%
Under age 18 in Poverty	23.3%	19.2%
Ages 5-17 in poverty	21.4%	16.9%
Median Household Income	\$34,126	\$43,948

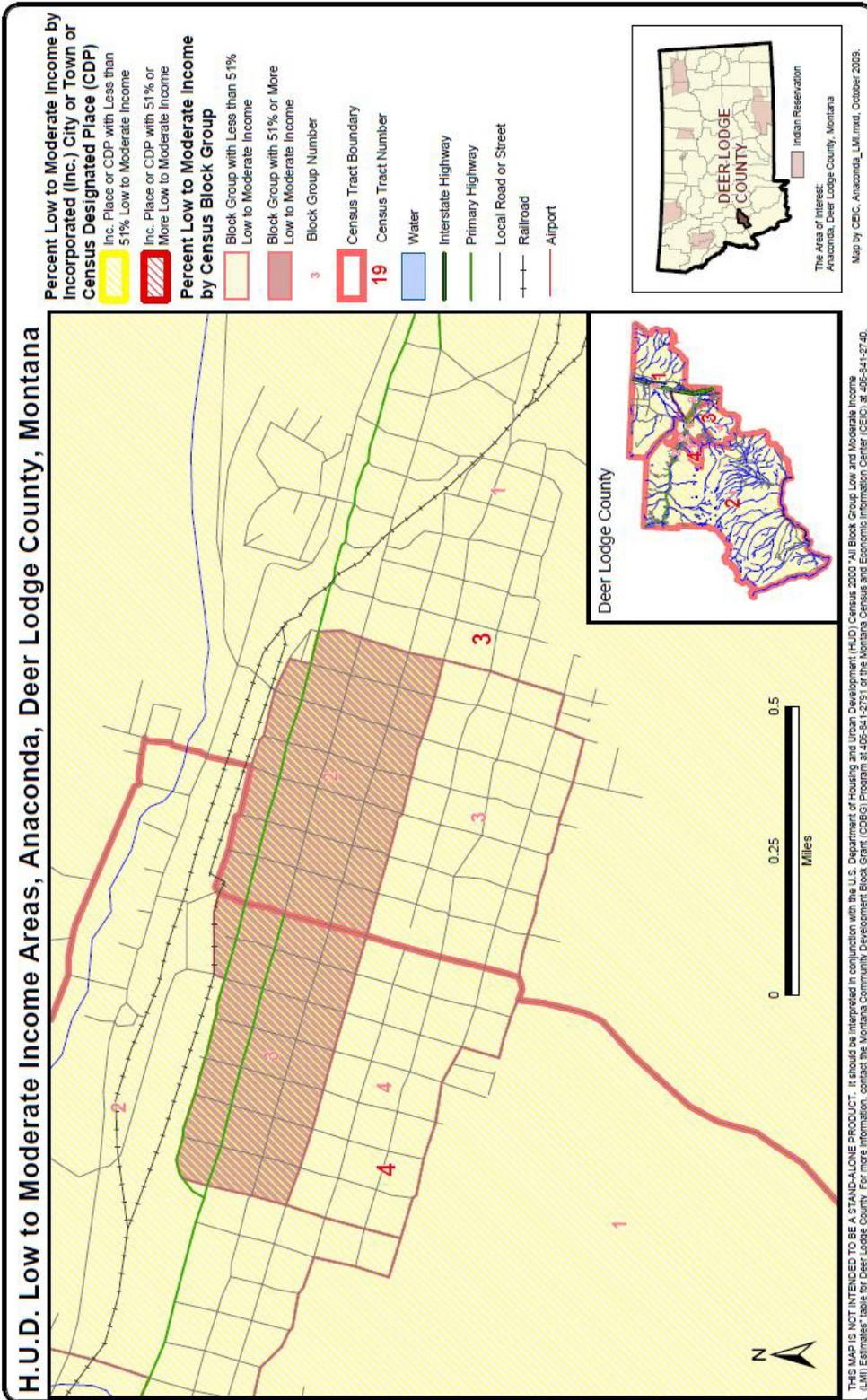
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/county.html>)

13. Low-Moderate Income

The goal of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is to assist Low and Moderate Income (LMI) households. CDBG programs provide funding for housing, infrastructure and economic development initiatives. Communities must document benefit to LMI persons to apply for these funds. For CDBG purposes, the following definitions apply:

- Moderate Income is defined as income from 50% to 80% of median family income.
- Low Income is defined as income below 50% of median family income.

Map 2: Low-Moderate Income Distribution in Anaconda



14. Labor Force

The overall labor force for ADLC declined from 2002 through 2008, but started increasing in 2009. Over the last decade, the unemployment rate in the County has been consistently higher than the statewide average. The unemployment rate in the County and State reached a low in 2006, but in August, 2010 it was at a 10-year high for both the State and near a 10-year high for the County.

Table 12: Labor Force Data for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Montana Unemployment Rate
2001	4,262	3,983	279	6.5%	4.5%
2002	4,236	3,979	257	6.1%	4.5%
2003	3,857	3,629	228	5.9%	4.3%
2004	3,868	3,645	223	5.8%	4.0%
2005	3,810	3,611	199	5.2%	3.7%
2006	3,887	3,707	180	4.6%	3.3%
2007	3,899	3,719	180	4.6%	3.4%
2008	3,852	3,625	227	5.9%	4.5%
2009	3,909	3,637	272	7.0%	6.2%
2010 (Aug)	4,019	3,707	312	7.8%	6.8%

Source: Montana Dept. of Labor, <http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/>

15. Employment Trends

Overall, jobs in ADLC grew by 7% between 2002 and 2007 but declined slightly in 2008. Local and state government is the largest industry sector in terms of employment followed by accommodations/food services and health services. Between 2002 and 2007, the real estate and construction sector had the largest increase in employment. There was a decline in employment in the government, finance/insurance, farm and professional services sectors.

Table 13: Employment Growth

	Total Employed
2002	4,244
2007	4,575
2008	4,463

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov/regional/reis/

Table 14: Employment by Major Industry Sectors – Anaconda - Deer Lodge County

Industry	2002	2008	# Change	% Change
Farm	129	112	(-17)	(-13%)
Construction	245	337	9	38%
Manufacturing	96	109	13	14%
Retail Trade	419	470	51	12%
Information	36	40	4	11%
Finance & Insurance	127	123	(-4)	(-3%)
Real Estate	126	210	84	67%
Professional & Technical Services	156	176	20	13%
Health Care Services	646	651	5	1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	134	160	26	19%
Accommodations & Food Services	620	572	(-48)	(-8%)
Other Services	281	313	32	11
Govt. – Federal Civilian	82	81	(-1)	(-1%)
Govt. – Federal Military	49	44	(-5)	(-10%)
Govt. – State & Local	842	832	-10	(-1%)
Total Employment	4,244	4,463	219	5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov/regional/reis/

Notes: Industry categories are based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

There is some anecdotal evidence, as well as 10-year old data from the 2000 Census, to suggest that Deer Lodge County is an exporter of labor. It is widely known that many Deer Lodge County workers commute to Butte and Deer Lodge, but some also travel to Helena and Missoula to work. An examination of place of residence/place of work data from the 2000 Census reveals that scores of Anaconda area workers traveled to distant Montana counties and even out of state for employment-----and this was at a time when telecommuting was not nearly as widespread as it is now. This is an important consideration for economic development as it may mean that the county has more of a ready labor force (employees willing to work in their home county if only they had the opportunity) than statistics might indicate.

16. Top Employers

The top private employers in the County include Aware Inc., Community Hospital of Anaconda, and Fairmont Hot Springs. Public employers are also among the top employers in the County as previously discussed.

Table 15: Top Employers in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Private Employer - Business Name	Size Class	Private Employer - Business Name	Size Class
AFFCO	4	Fairmont Hot Springs Resort (BSB)	6
Albertson's	4	Head Start	4
Anaconda Copper City Bowling	4	Jordon Contracting	5
Aware Inc.(group homes)	6	McDonald's	4
Barclay II	4	New Directions Youth Services	4
Community Hospital & Nursing Home	6	Safeway	4
Community Counseling & Correction	6	Town Pump	4
Dee Motor Company	4		
Public Employers			
Anaconda Job Corp	5	Anaconda Public Schools	6

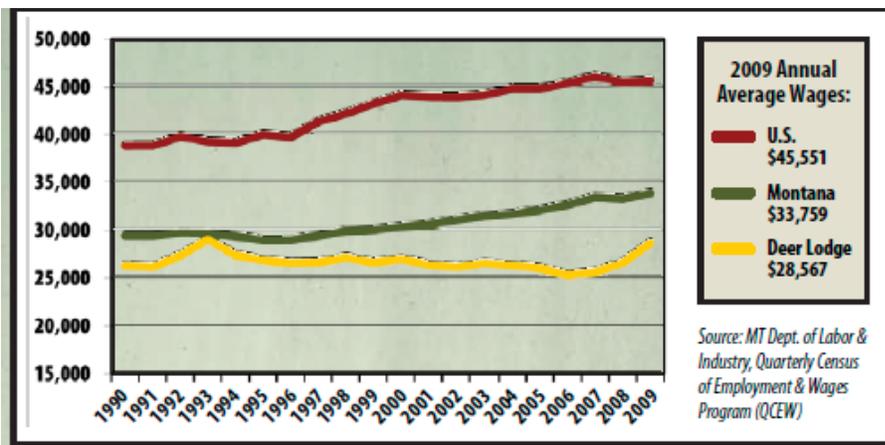
Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program 2nd Quarter, 2008 Data. Public employment data is from the Headwaters RC&D Area plan.

Note: Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees. Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees. Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees. Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees.

17. Annual Average Wages and Cost of Living

The average wage in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County lags behind national and Montana averages. Since 1992 the wage rate has declined while state and national wages have risen. According to www.bestplaces.net, the cost of living in Anaconda is 84.6% of the U.S. average.

Figure 4: Annual Average Wages, 1990 – 2009



Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/3414_CF_Deerlodge.pdf

18. Agricultural Economy

While the number of farms increased in the County from 2002 to 2007, the average size of farms decreased dramatically resulting in a 41% reduction in farmed acreage. The average size of a farm in the County is less than 10% of the average for the state of Montana. Consequently, average sales per farm are also significantly less than the state average. The average age of the farm operator had been increasing since the 1980's but remained about the same from 2002 to 2007, and is comparable to the State of Montana.

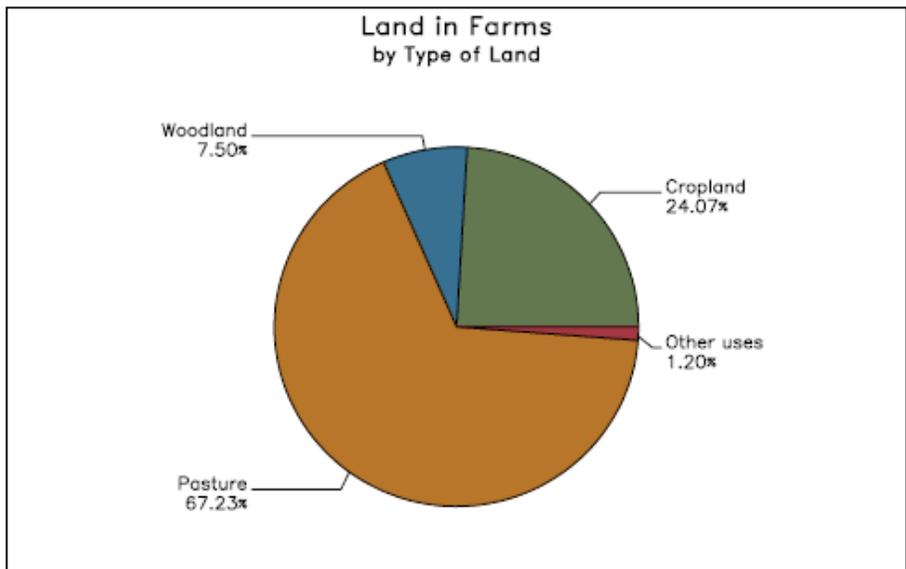
Table 16: Agricultural Statistics for Anaconda – Deer Lodge County

	2002	2007	% Change	Montana 2007
Farms (number)	109	123	13%	+6% from 2002
Land in Farms (acres)	134,997	79,335	(-41%)	+3% from 2002
Average Size (Acres)	480	160	(-48%)	2,079
Average Sales per Farm	\$39,407	\$32,727	(-17%)	\$94,942
% of Operators Primary Occupation = Farming	53%	47%	(-6%)	51%
Average Age of Operator	56.3	56.6	--	57.8

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1997, 2002

Figure 5: Land in Farms by Type of Land

About two-thirds of the farmland in the County is pasture. The majority of pasture is for grazing cattle with some land for sheep and horses. Cropland comprises 24% of farmland. Almost all cropland in the County is used for growing hay.

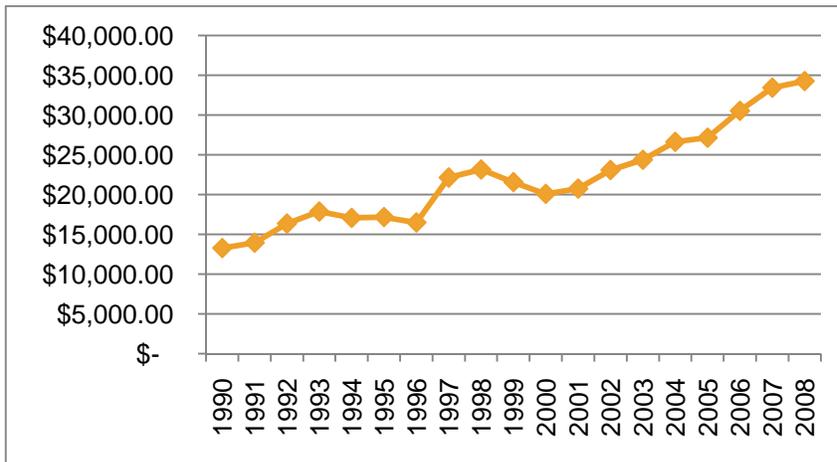


Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

19. Tourism Economy

As Figure 6 indicates, County lodging tax revenues were stagnant in the first part of the 1990's. However, there was a significant increase in lodging tax collection that corresponded with the opening of Old Works Golf Course. Although there was a another decline in lodging tax collections in 2000, there has been a steady increase every year since then.

Figure 6 : Lodging Tax Revenue Collections – Anaconda-Deer Lodge County



Source: Montana Department of Commerce Montana Promotion Division, (www.travelmontana.state.mt.us/Newsandupdates_bed_tax_reveune/ltrhome.asp)

For the purpose of tourism marketing efforts, Montana is divided into six regions. Each region has a nonprofit tourism marketing organization that receives funds from state lodging tax collections to conduct regional marketing activities. While the majority of tax collections are generated in the state's urban counties, the regions also provide support for local tourism marketing efforts in rural communities and counties with linkages to the urban areas. As indicated in Table 16, ADLC is located in the Gold West Region. Compared to other counties in the region, ADLC County is in the lower third in terms of lodging tax collections. In 2009, however, it was one of only two counties in the region that had an increase in lodging tax revenues.

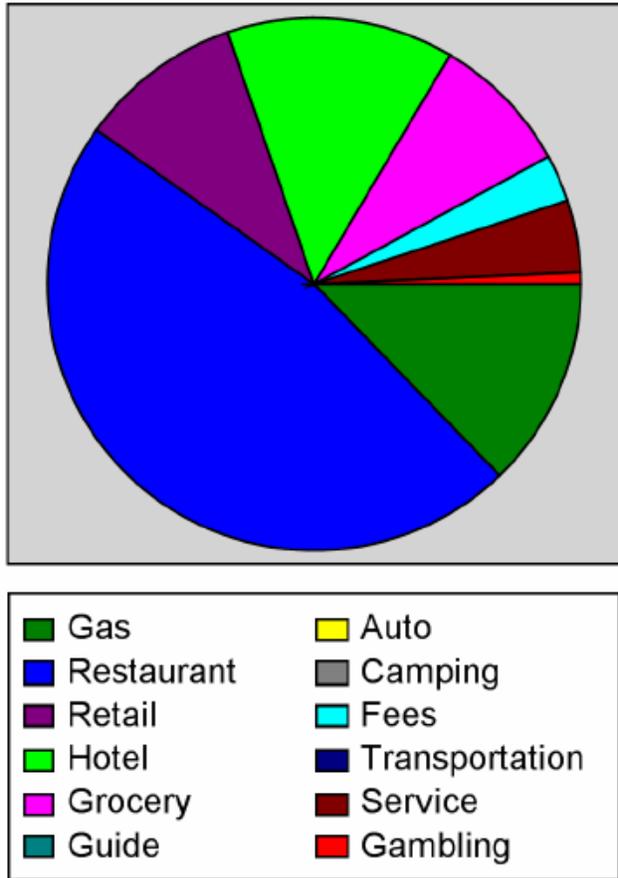
Table 17 : Lodging Tax Collections – Gold West Region, 2008

County	2008	2009	% Change
Beaverhead	\$193,858	\$179,044	(-11%)
Broadwater	\$23,707	\$23,295	(-3%)
Anaconda – Deer Lodge	\$34,266	\$35,996	3%
Granite	\$28,457	\$25,261	(-12%)
Jefferson	\$41,808	\$41,291	(-1%)
Lewis & Clark	\$842,971	\$828,698	(-4%)
Madison	\$173,050	\$154,712	(9%)
Powell	\$44,996	\$46,860	4%
Silver Bow	\$754,037	\$731,237	(-3%)

Source: Montana Department of Commerce - Montana Promotion Division

According to data collected by the Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research (ITTR) at the University of Montana, tourism dollars that were spent in the County in 2006 amounted to \$3,752,206. Spending on restaurants represented the largest expenditure by more than double any other category. Hotel and gas were the next largest categories to capture visitor dollars. Statewide, the top three categories for tourism spending included gas, restaurant and retail.

Figure 7 : Expenditures by Visitors to Anaconda-Deer Lodge County - 2006



Source: Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research, University of Montana, 2006

ITTR also reported that 44% of visitors reported that the primary reason for their trip to the county was for vacation/pleasure while another 41% reported that the primary reason was to visit friends or family. Another 15% indicated that they were visiting the county for a business/convention or meeting.

Heritage Tourism

Heritage tourism continues to be popular with an aging U.S. population. Vacations to visit the historic and cultural sites and events of a community or region are usually made by automobile, and often at relatively low cost compared to other types of vacations. This makes heritage tourism even more popular during a recession and to those on fixed or limited incomes. Heritage tourism is a key component of the implementation strategy in the Montana Tourism and Recreation Strategic Plan.

With the 2010 closing of the Anaconda Railroad and Mining Museum, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has no facility with which to showcase its rich cultural heritage. However, supporters and board members of the railroad museum have approached the County about reopening the museum in a new downtown location. If this partnering opportunity were successful, it would once again add heritage tourism to the package of attractions that the Anaconda area has to offer visitors.

20. Economic Development

A. East Anaconda Reuse Plan

The East Anaconda Reuse Plan was funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the remediation effort for the Superfund area in Anaconda. The recommendations of the plan will enable environmental clean-up activities to be completed in accordance with anticipated future development of the various sites. The boundary for the reuse plan generally encompass the area from the airport to the north, I-90 to the east, Mill Creek area to the south and the East Yards area to the west. The area is divided into four distinct development sites, each with a specific redevelopment plan. The Reuse Plan was adopted as a special area plan, and therefore, as part of the Growth Policy, in 2008.

B. Anaconda Local Development Corporation (ALDC)

Anaconda Local Development Corporation (ALDC) is a non-profit agency that promotes economic development in Anaconda and the region. ALDC provides small business assistance, financing, and technical assistance. The agency coordinates with the county and other state and regional economic development organizations.

C. Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D)

Headwaters RC&D is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) that was formed in 1973. The RC&D covers an eight-county sub-state region that includes Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, and received its designation as an Economic Development District (EDD) in March 1993. A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a prerequisite for designating a district as an EDD and to qualify public works projects, economic adjustments and planning projects within the District for EDA assistance. The most recent CEDS was adopted in 2007 and contains strategies for economic development throughout the region.

D. Tax Increment Finance Districts

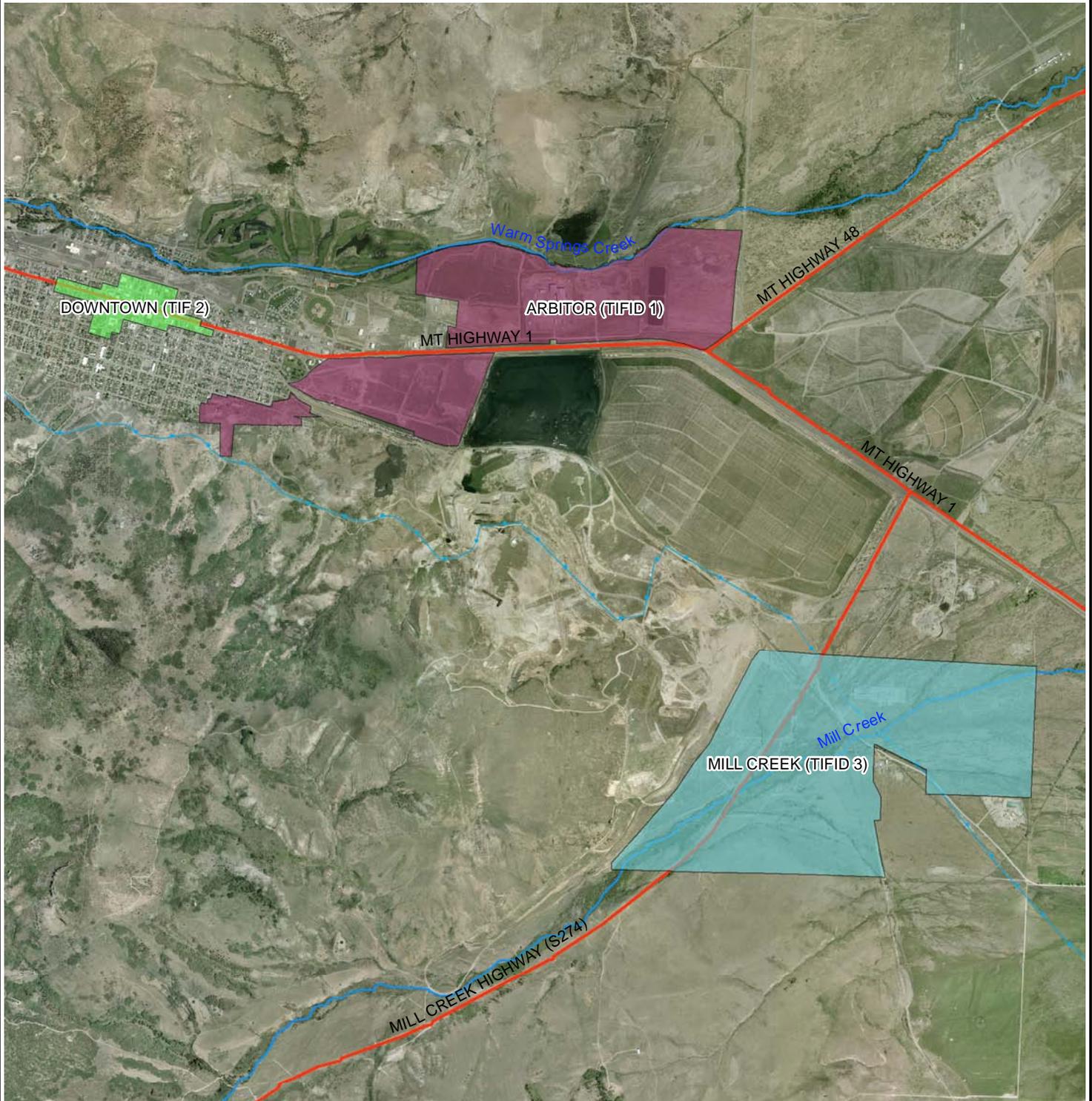
Anaconda Deer-Lodge County has a Tax Increment Finance District (TIF) in the downtown area for the purposes of redevelopment in accordance with the urban renewal plan for the area. Additionally, the County has established two Tax Increment Financing Industrial Districts (TIFID) to finance infrastructure improvements in the industrial areas. The purpose of both districts is to develop infrastructure to encourage the growth and the retention of value added industries and good paying employment opportunities. Infrastructure deficiencies include, access roads, streets, parking facilities, rail spurs, electrical service, natural gas, telecommunications systems, water systems, storm sewers, fire hydrants, sewage pre-treatment facilities, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, lighting, publicly owned buildings, industrial machinery, and equipment.

- Tax Increment Financing Industrial District No. 1 - East Anaconda Yards, Red Sands Business Park
- Tax Increment Financing Industrial District No. 2 - Mill Creek Area

E. Main Street Program

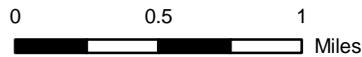
The Montana Department of Commerce administers the Main Street Program to assist communities with efforts to revitalize their downtowns. Participating communities receive technical and financial assistance, depending on the specific program in which the community is participating. Anaconda was selected to be a Main Street Community in 2006.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County TIF and TIFID Districts



LEGEND

- Highways
- Silver Lake Water Line
- ARBITOR (TIFID 1)
- DOWNTOWN (TIF 2)
- MILL CREEK (TIFID 3)



DATA SOURCES:
Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)
Anaconda Deer Lodge County Clerk and Recorders



Deer Lodge County

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TIF Districts.mxd

PART 3: GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

For Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, economic development is all about growing and recruiting base industries, creating jobs, and restarting the flow of dollars into the County once again. Almost 30 years after the Anaconda Company's operations closed, much of the land remains vacant or under-utilized. For ADLC to become "open for business", the entire community---citizens, elected and appointed officials, business leaders, financial institutions, and economic development organizations----must all work together to build on the community's strengths while improving on its weaknesses. As a general recommendation, the community should focus on three classic components of local economic stabilization and vitality:

1. Clean, community-compatible business and industry
2. An attractive and vibrant central business district
3. Visitation/tourism

Goal 1: Build a stable diversity of basic businesses and industries in and around Anaconda.

Goal 2: Create opportunities for local government, economic development organizations, and the local business community to work together on projects and programs to promote business and industry development.

Goal 3: Expand visitation and tourism as a component of the base economy.

Goal 4: Focus on renewable alternative energy development as both a means to expand the base economy and to foster community sustainability.

Goal 5: Support job opportunities so that more young people can remain in the community after graduation from high school, college, or trade school, and to attract new residents and families to the community.

Goal 6: Reduce the "leakage" of retail dollars going to other communities.

Policies:

1. Rebuilding a healthy, sustainable base economy shall continue to be a high priority for the ADLC government.
2. ADLC shall encourage high quality development in order to attract new industry and protect public and private investment.
3. ADLC shall continue to support economic development through the financing and maintenance of vital infrastructure.

Actions:

1. The County shall continue to refine and implement the East Anaconda Reuse Plan and take a lead role in promoting the various development areas.
2. Continue to seek grants and other external funding sources to extend and improve the community's infrastructure.
3. Actively encourage the production of workforce housing through neighborhood planning and by adding an infill/redevelopment PUD option to the DPS.
4. Continue to refine the remediation/development permit process in order to provide assurance to developers and business people that housing and economic development projects can proceed to completion quickly and smoothly.
5. Explore adding an economic development function to the County organization.
6. Formulate and adopt commercial and industrial design and architectural standards in order to assure a high quality of development and protect public and private investment.
7. Investigate adding more categories of home based businesses to the DPS.
8. Improve the visual quality and image of the Anaconda community through property maintenance standards and neighborhood cleanup campaigns.
9. Support and provide resources to local cooperatives in order to broaden the range of goods and services available in Anaconda.
10. Partner with the existing Main Street program and the Chamber of Commerce to foster more business development downtown and keep downtown as the business, cultural, and entertainment center of the community.
11. Partner with Anaconda Railroad and Mining Museum supporters to reopen a county museum in Anaconda.
12. Initiate and support demonstration projects that promote sustainability, alternative energy, and green technologies.