

Public Abstract

First Name:Anthony

Middle Name:Steven

Last Name:Clark

Adviser's First Name:Anthony

Adviser's Last Name:Prato

Co-Adviser's First Name:Thomas

Co-Adviser's Last Name:Johnson

Graduation Term:FS 2007

Department:Agricultural Economics

Degree:PhD

Title:An Alternative Futures Analysis of Flathead County, Montana: Evaluating Tradeoffs Among Economic Growth, Land Use Policy and Land Use Change

Nine alternative future scenarios are projected for one of the fastest growing counties in the Rocky Mountain West: Flathead County, Montana. The scenarios, created for two different study periods, vary depending on assumed rates of economic growth and the land use policy enacted by local government. The scenarios include projections to the years 2014 and 2024 for job growth, increases in housing requirements, and increases in acres required for future residential and commercial development. Output also includes GIS-based maps showing the projected locations of future development. The study results have many implications for public policy. In particular, if the rate of growth is high and the current land use policy remains unchanged, some scenarios project a deficit in the amount of land available for development, implying potentially unsustainable outcomes