

*A Survey of Attitudes and Perspectives on  
Rural Character and Economic Development in Lewis County*

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*With Support from the Bullitt Foundation and the Chehalis River Council*

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## **Appendix A – Blank Survey Questionnaires**

## *LEWIS COUNTY WATCH*

P.O. Box 175  
Chehalis, WA 98532

May 1, 2003

### **First Questionnaire on Rural Life in Lewis County**

Dear Survey Participant,

Life in Lewis County has traditionally focused on rural values, with an economy and lifestyle derived from the land. High-elevation areas in the Cascades and Willapa Hills provide some of the most productive timberland in the state. River valleys are prime land for dairy, grain, vegetable, and berry farms. Lewis County is one of the few areas along the I-5 corridor where open space and rural land still predominate.

In the last two decades changes in the state and national economy have altered this historic pattern of rural land use. Imported food products have reduced the market for traditional local crops, making it more difficult for farms to survive. At the same time, population growth along the I-5 corridor has encouraged people to migrate into the county, seeking opportunities to live in the country and commute to jobs in nearby cities.

These changes have both positive and negative effects, and challenge us to identify what aspects of traditional rural life we want to preserve. The attached survey questions are designed to help us do this, by describing the changes we have seen, the impacts of those changes, and the things we believe are important about rural life.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope by the end of May. Feel free to add additional thoughts, concerns, ideas to the back of any of these pages – all input is appreciated. When all forms have been returned, the results will be tabulated and follow-up questions generated.

A summary of the first survey results and the second questionnaire will be sent to you sometime around the end of June.

Thank you for sharing your perspectives on these rural life issues. If you have questions, feel free to call Annette Yanisch (985-7115), Susan Lamoreaux (245-3269), or Rob Schanz (291-3725).

**1. Changes you have seen in rural Lewis County.** Check the box that most closely describes the extent to which you have observed the following changes in rural Lewis County:

|      |  | None | Some | Many |
|------|--|------|------|------|
| 1.1  | Have farms or dairies closed in your neighborhood?                               |      |      |      |
| 1.2  | Have farms been subdivided into residential lots?                                |      |      |      |
| 1.3  | Has timberland been subdivided into residential lots?                            |      |      |      |
| 1.4  | Have new businesses been established on rural lands?                             |      |      |      |
| 1.5  | Are there more people in your neighborhood who commute to jobs in the city?      |      |      |      |
| 1.6  | Are more people moving into your neighborhood to retire?                         |      |      |      |
| 1.7  | Rate the extent of change you have seen as you travel along the following roads: |      |      |      |
|      | Centralia-Alpha Road   |      |      |      |
|      | Highway 6  |      |      |      |
|      | Jackson Highway  |      |      |      |
|      | Highway 12   |      |      |      |
|      | Highway 508  |      |      |      |
| 1.8  | Have new neighborhoods been developed near where you live?                       |      |      |      |
| 1.9  | Do houses in your neighborhood frequently change ownership?                      |      |      |      |
| 1.10 | Are there many houses for sale in your neighborhood?                             |      |      |      |

How long have you lived in Lewis County? \_\_\_\_\_ years

Is there anything else you would like to describe about changes in Lewis County? (you can write on the back of this page if you need more room):

**2. Impacts of changes to Lewis County.** Rate how change in rural Lewis County influences the following aspects of rural life:

|      |  | <b>Positive effect</b> | <b>No effect</b> | <b>Negative effect</b> |
|------|--|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 2.1  | Traffic  |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.2  | Wells and drinking water supplies                                  |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.3  | Local job opportunities  |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.4  | Opportunities for local retail shopping                            |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.5  | Opportunities to buy local produce and farm products               |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.6  | Rivers, salmon, and wildlife habitat                               |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.7  | Attracting people with new and diverse perspectives                |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.8  | A sense of common values within the community                      |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.9  | Open space for outdoor activities (hiking, horseback riding, etc.) |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.10 | Opportunities to hunt or fish                                      |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.11 | Ability to farm  |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.12 | Ability to manage timberland                                       |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.13 | Ability to hear the sounds of nature                               |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.14 | Ability to see the stars at night                                  |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.15 | Quality of schools   |                        |                  |                        |
| 2.16 | Crime in your area   |                        |                  |                        |

Do you have other thoughts about the effects of changes in Lewis County?

**3. What do you value about rural life?** Rate how important each of the following aspects of rural life are to you:

|      |  | <b>Not<br/>Important</b> | <b>Somewhat<br/>Important</b> | <b>Very<br/>Important</b> |
|------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1  | Privacy  |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.2  | Peace and quiet  |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.3  | The ability to farm for a living   |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.4  | The ability to grow your own crops or raise livestock                          |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.5  | The freedom to do what you want with your land                                 |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.6  | Access to open space for hiking, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.7  | Knowing your neighbors   |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.8  | Local economic opportunities for yourself                                      |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.9  | Local economic opportunities for your children                                 |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.10 | Traditional rural values   |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.11 | Opportunities to observe wildlife  |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.12 | The opportunity to create your own unique living space/environment             |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.13 | Smaller schools  |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.14 | Neighbors who share your values  |                          |                               |                           |
| 3.15 | Sense of community   |                          |                               |                           |

Are there other things that you value about rural life?

## *LEWIS COUNTY WATCH*

P.O. Box 175  
Chehalis, WA 98532

July 28, 2003

### **Second Questionnaire on Rural Life in Lewis County**

Dear Survey Participant,

Thank you all for participating in our first survey on rural life in Lewis County. We received responses from 24 out of 31 people who received the survey. This high level of response demonstrates your commitment and interest in tackling these difficult issues.

As promised, we have analyzed the results and generated a second set of questions. The new questions are designed to clarify your responses, explore different aspects of the first set of questions, and/or stimulate further thought on rural life issues.

You will find that the format of the new questions is more variable, and the topics tend to be more specific. For each group of questions we have tried to briefly summarize the survey results that stimulated the new questions, to give you a flavor of how the group responded. At the end of the project we will provide you a written report that gives a more detailed description of the survey results.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope by the end of August. Even if you did not fill in the first survey, you are encouraged to participate in the second survey. When all forms have been returned, we will tabulate the results and generate a third (and final) set of follow up questions.

One note on privacy – some of you noticed that the first survey had a number in the corner of the first page. This was used to track whether or not we had received your completed questionnaire. When we received your questionnaire the number was clipped off to ensure that your responses would remain confidential. This time we have put the tracking number on the return envelope (which will be discarded).

Thank you for sharing your perspectives on these rural life issues. If you have questions, feel free to call Annette Yanisch (985-7115), Susan Lamoreaux (245-3269), or Rob Schanz (291-3725).

**LEWIS COUNTY WATCH DELPHI SURVEY ON RURAL LIFE  
SECOND ROUND**

1. The first section of the previous survey asked people to rate the extent of change they had observed in various aspects of rural life. The majority of people (14-15 out of 24) rated the extent of change as “Some” for most of these questions. Based on your experience, check the answer below that best represents the time period when you feel most of this change has occurred:

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
|  | In the last 5 years  |
|  | In the last 10 years |
|  | In the last 20 years |
|  | In the last 30 years |
|  | In the last 50 years |

2. Check the box that best describes the rate of change during this time period:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
|  | Slow     |
|  | Moderate |
|  | Rapid    |

3. A majority of people (15-16 out of 24) observed at least some new development in their neighborhoods. Check one box in each column below that best describes the rate of growth you think local roads, water supply systems, sewage disposal systems, fire departments, police, and schools can handle:

| <b>Roads</b> | <b>Water Supply</b> | <b>Sewage Disposal</b> | <b>Fire Depts.</b> | <b>Police</b> | <b>Schools</b> |                 |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
|              |                     |                        |                    |               |                | No growth       |
|              |                     |                        |                    |               |                | Slow growth     |
|              |                     |                        |                    |               |                | Moderate growth |
|              |                     |                        |                    |               |                | Rapid growth    |
|              |                     |                        |                    |               |                | Don't know      |

4. Check the box that best describes who is developing the land in the parts of the county that you are familiar with:

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Mostly people building their own homes          |
|  | Mostly developers who intend to sell for profit |
|  | An even mix of homeowners and developers        |

5. Most people (19 out of 24) had observed at least some houses for sale in their neighborhood. Check the box that best describes the mix of existing housing and new development you believe is appropriate to accommodate population growth in your area:

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Existing housing is enough                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A few new houses are needed                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Some new houses are needed                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Extensive development of new houses is needed |

6. Where do you think developers should be encouraged to build?

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Within urban areas                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In the fringe surrounding urban areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In rural countryside                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wherever land is available            |

7. Check one box in each column below that best describes how far you would be willing to commute regularly to do the following activities:

| <b>Work</b>              | <b>Shop</b>              | <b>Day-trip recreation</b> |             |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | 0-5 miles   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | 6-15 miles  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | 16-30 miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | 31-60 miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | > 60 miles  |

8. In part 2 of the first survey a large majority of people (13 to 18 out of 24) identified negative impacts to traffic, drinking water, rivers and wildlife habitat, open space for recreation, and the ability to farm. The response was more mixed on the effect of change on local job opportunities, with a virtual even split between those who saw negative and positive impacts. Rank how well the following job categories describe the number of job opportunities being created by growth in Lewis County (1 = describes the highest number of jobs, 5 = describes the least number of jobs).

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Retail/service jobs                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Professional/technical jobs         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family wage trade jobs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Small business owners/entrepreneurs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Management positions                |

9. In the impacts section of the first survey we did not address impacts to the visual landscape. How has change affected the view from your house?

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Positive effect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No effect       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Negative effect |

10. In Part 3 of the first survey a large majority of people placed high value on privacy, peace and quiet, access to open space, and the opportunity to create a unique living environment. The freedom to do what you want with your land was valued by 23 out of 24 people, with an even split between “somewhat important” and “very important”. In the boxes below, rank these aspects of rural life from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Privacy   |
|  | Local economic opportunities                      |
|  | Peace and quiet                                   |
|  | Opportunity to create a unique living environment |
|  | Freedom to do what you want with your land        |
|  | Access to open space for outdoor recreation       |

11. About half of the respondents rated the ability to farm for a living as “not important”. The original question asked how important the ability to farm was to you personally. How important is it to you that opportunities remain for other people who want to farm for a living in Lewis County?

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
|  | Not Important      |
|  | Somewhat Important |
|  | Very Important     |

12. Our changing economy has broadened the range of farming activities that occur in rural areas. Check all of the boxes below that you view as describing a “real” farm.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Hobby farm for personal use and enjoyment           |
|  | Small farm that provides extra income               |
|  | Small-scale specialty farm (herbs, organic produce) |
|  | Farm that supports a single family                  |
|  | Large-scale corporate farm                          |

13. A majority of people (15 to 16 out of 24) rated local economic opportunities for yourself and your children as somewhat or not important. Irrespective of your personal economic situation, how important is it to you that there be local economic opportunities for other people in Lewis County?

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
|  | Not Important      |
|  | Somewhat Important |
|  | Very Important     |

14. A majority of people (16 out of 24) strongly valued a sense of community. A similar majority felt that knowing your neighbors was only somewhat important. This implies that people have definitions of community that are not necessarily related to the borders of their neighborhood. Check all of the boxes below that describe where you most often find your “sense of community”:

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In your neighborhood                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Church/religious organizations                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Through school or children’s activities           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation/sports                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Interests groups (clubs, community service orgs.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Political or community activist groups            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Extended family                                   |

15. Several people questioned what we meant by “traditional rural values”. In the line below, write a phrase that describes a traditional rural value that is important to you.

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If you wish you may write more about traditional rural values below and on the back of this survey.

## *LEWIS COUNTY WATCH*

P.O. Box 175  
Chehalis, WA 98532

October 2003

### **Third Questionnaire on Rural Life in Lewis County**

Dear Survey Participant,

Enclosed is the third and final set of questions for our survey on rural life in Lewis County. The second survey showed that people are very interested in preserving rural quality of life. There was also a recognition that some growth is necessary (or at least inevitable), and that better economic opportunities are needed. The third set of survey questions therefore focuses on how we should balance preservation of quality of life with the development of economic opportunities.

The last question on the second survey asked you to share with us a phrase that you felt described traditional rural values. We were very impressed with your answers, and thought you would enjoy seeing the responses:

- Friendliness, Support from other community members, commitment to health of community
- Strong family and moral values
- Ability to live on your own land without excessive government interference
- Well-kept homes, open spaces, farm animals
- Respect for and practice of sustainable living using available resources
- Being able to make a living off the land
- Having people you can count on in times of need and joy
- Being able to continue farming and raising my family in a healthy environment
- Allowing areas to exist for no other reason than to be open and natural
- Raising a family near outdoor opportunities and farm animals
- Simple basic lifestyle with no crowds, traffic jams, etc.; Family centered
- Communing with nature – working with the soil and plants
- Kids wading in a creek on a warm summer day
- Forest access
- A handshake agreement is honored
- Respect for the land and for the people who live and work on

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope by the mid November. When all forms have been returned, we will tabulate the results and generate a report summarizing the results of the three surveys. In the meantime, if you have questions feel free to call Annette Yanisch (985-7115), Susan Lamoreaux (245-3269), or Rob Schanz (291-3725).

**LEWIS COUNTY WATCH DELPHI SURVEY ON RURAL LIFE  
THIRD ROUND**

1. Local economic opportunities were rated as very important by 14 out of 18 respondents to the previous survey. Rural quality of life issues such as privacy, peace, and quiet were also strongly valued. Check all the boxes below that describe the appropriateness of the following economic activities in rural areas:

| <b>Activity/Industry</b>  | <b>Appropriate in most rural areas</b> | <b>Appropriate within 1-mile of your house</b> | <b>Not appropriate in rural areas</b> |
|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Shake/Lumber mill         |  |  |                                       |
| Beauty Shop               |  |  |                                       |
| Small home-based industry |  |  |                                       |
| Poultry processing plant  |  |  |                                       |
| Assisted living facility  |  |  |                                       |
| Motorcross track          |  |  |                                       |
| Small mechanics shop      |  |  |                                       |
| Daycare center            |  |  |                                       |
| Firing range              |  |  |                                       |
| Ministorage facility      |  |  |                                       |
| Warehousing facility      |  |  |                                       |
| Antique shop              |  |  |                                       |
| Bed and Breakfast         |  |  |                                       |
| Trucking facility         |  |  |                                       |

2. In question 6 of the previous survey 17 out of 18 respondents felt that developers should be encouraged to build within urban areas or in the fringe surrounding urban areas. 11 out of 18 were willing to drive more than 16 miles to work. Check the box below that best describes where we should focus efforts to develop economic opportunities:

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Within urban areas                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In the fringe surrounding urban areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In rural countryside                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wherever land is available            |

3. Most people felt that retail/service jobs were the most common jobs being created by growth, followed in order by small business owners, family wage trade jobs, management positions, and professional/technical jobs. Rank in order of preference the kinds of jobs we should be trying to create in Lewis County to promote economic opportunities and improve quality of rural life (1 describing the most preferred jobs, 5 the least preferred):

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | Retail/service jobs                 |
|  | Professional/technical jobs         |
|  | Family wage trade jobs              |
|  | Small business owners/entrepreneurs |
|  | Management positions                |

4. Check the boxes below that describe ways you would be willing to work to protect the quality of rural life:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Join a neighborhood organization   |
|  | Serve on an advisory committee as part of a government planning process                                |
|  | Work with a service organization like the Lions Club or the Grange                                     |
|  | Contribute to or join a local environmental group  |
|  | Contribute to or join a statewide or national environmental group                                      |
|  | Manage my land in a way that serves as an example to others  |
|  | Work with schools and youth groups   |
|  | Participate in community service projects (roadside or river cleanup days, tree planting events, etc.) |
|  | Come to a neighborhood potluck to talk about rural issues  |
|  | Promote political actions and candidates that you feel will protect rural values                       |
|  | Testify to county and state officials at public hearings   |

5. Check the boxes below that describe ways you would be willing to work to improve economic opportunities in Lewis County:

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Serve on a local economic advisory group  |
|  | Start a rural business that promotes local job opportunities                          |
|  | Lobby for legislation that will promote appropriate local economic opportunities      |
|  | Promote political candidates that you feel will work for local economic opportunities |
|  | Work with local business organizations (Chamber of Commerce, Farm bureau, etc.)       |
|  | Come to a neighborhood potluck to talk about rural economic development               |
|  | Alter your shopping patterns to help local businesses                                 |
|  | Testify to county and state officials at public hearings                              |

## **Appendix B – Raw Data Tallies for Each Questionnaire**

**LEWIS COUNTY WATCH DELPHI SURVEY**  
**First Questionnaire Results**  
**7/2/03**

**1. Changes you have seen in rural Lewis County.** Check the box that most closely describes the extent to which you have observed the following changes in rural Lewis County:

|      |  | <b>None</b> | <b>Some</b> | <b>Many</b> |
|------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.1  | Have farms or dairies closed in your neighborhood?                               | 5           | 11          | 8           |
| 1.2  | Have farms been subdivided into residential lots?                                | 6           | 14          | 4           |
| 1.3  | Has timberland been subdivided into residential lots?                            | 10          | 12          | 2           |
| 1.4  | Have new businesses been established on rural lands?                             | 9           | 15          |             |
| 1.5  | Are there more people in your neighborhood who commute to jobs in the city?      | 3           | 14          | 5           |
| 1.6  | Are more people moving into your neighborhood to retire?                         | 3           | 15          | 5           |
| 1.7  | Rate the extent of change you have seen as you travel along the following roads: |             |             |             |
|      | Centralia-Alpha Road   | 4           | 14          | 2           |
|      | Highway 6  | 2           | 14          | 5           |
|      | Jackson Highway  | 2           | 8           | 11          |
|      | Highway 12   | 1           | 12          | 10          |
|      | Highway 508  | 4           | 12          | 4           |
| 1.8  | Have new neighborhoods been developed near where you live?                       | 8           | 15          | 1           |
| 1.9  | Do houses in your neighborhood frequently change ownership?                      | 7           | 15          | 2           |
| 1.10 | Are there many houses for sale in your neighborhood?                             | 5           | 14          | 5           |

How long have you lived in Lewis County?      median = 30, range = 7-70 years

**2. Impacts of changes to Lewis County.** Rate how change in rural Lewis County influences the following aspects of rural life:

|      |  | <b>Positive effect</b> | <b>No effect</b> | <b>Negative effect</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> |
|------|--|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2.1  | Traffic  |                        | 4                | 18                     | 1               |
| 2.2  | Wells and drinking water supplies                                  | 1                      | 5                | 16                     | 1               |
| 2.3  | Local job opportunities  | 10                     | 4                | 9                      |                 |
| 2.4  | Opportunities for local retail shopping                            | 13                     | 4                | 6                      |                 |
| 2.5  | Opportunities to buy local produce and farm products               | 8                      | 5                | 11                     |                 |
| 2.6  | Rivers, salmon, and wildlife habitat                               | 2                      | 4                | 18                     |                 |
| 2.7  | Attracting people with new and diverse perspectives                | 17                     | 4                | 3                      |                 |
| 2.8  | A sense of common values within the community                      | 6                      | 11               | 6                      | 1               |
| 2.9  | Open space for outdoor activities (hiking, horseback riding, etc.) | 5                      | 6                | 13                     |                 |
| 2.10 | Opportunities to hunt or fish                                      | 1                      | 8                | 14                     |                 |
| 2.11 | Ability to farm  | 3                      | 7                | 14                     |                 |
| 2.12 | Ability to manage timberland                                       | 2                      | 10               | 9                      | 2               |
| 2.13 | Ability to hear the sounds of nature                               | 2                      | 11               | 10                     |                 |
| 2.14 | Ability to see the stars at night                                  | 3                      | 15               | 4                      | 1               |
| 2.15 | Quality of schools   | 7                      | 8                | 9                      |                 |
| 2.16 | Crime in your area   | 1                      | 11               | 12                     |                 |

**3. What do you value about rural life?** Rate how important each of the following aspects of rural life are to you:

|      |  | <b>Not Important</b> | <b>Somewhat Important</b> | <b>Very Important</b> |
|------|--|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3.1  | Privacy  |                      | 6                         | 18                    |
| 3.2  | Peace and quiet  |                      | 5                         | 19                    |
| 3.3  | The ability to farm for a living   | 12                   | 4                         | 8                     |
| 3.4  | The ability to grow your own crops or raise livestock                          | 7                    | 7                         | 10                    |
| 3.5  | The freedom to do what you want with your land                                 | 1                    | 12                        | 11                    |
| 3.6  | Access to open space for hiking, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities |                      | 7                         | 17                    |
| 3.7  | Knowing your neighbors   | 1                    | 15                        | 8                     |
| 3.8  | Local economic opportunities for yourself                                      | 5                    | 11                        | 8                     |
| 3.9  | Local economic opportunities for your children                                 | 2                    | 13                        | 9                     |
| 3.10 | Traditional rural values   | 1                    | 8                         | 14                    |
| 3.11 | Opportunities to observe wildlife  | 1                    | 10                        | 13                    |
| 3.12 | The opportunity to create your own unique living space/environment             |                      | 9                         | 15                    |
| 3.13 | Smaller schools  | 7                    | 9                         | 8                     |
| 3.14 | Neighbors who share your values  |                      | 15                        | 9                     |
| 3.15 | Sense of community   |                      | 8                         | 16                    |

## **Summary of Narrative Responses:**

### **General**

Questions are rather broad and choice of answers is too narrow. Topics have gray areas not represented.

A “Do not know” box would help.

The number in the corner of the survey raises a small question about anonymity.

### **Is there anything else you would like to describe about changes in Lewis County?**

The replacement of high paying jobs (primarily but not solely timber jobs) with lower paying jobs has had a profound influence on the county.

Consider putting in a time line (changes in the last 5 years, 10 years, etc.) to better define these questions.

Productive timberland is also in the lower elevations. Lewis County has soil deposits uniquely suited to growing conifers.

Concern about the filling in of lowlands.

We are at a crossroads where we can preserve our county and keep it from massive development if we’re careful. People need jobs but they are selective. Even those who are struggling seem worried about losing our county as we know it.

The Hamilton’s sign on the freeway is unfortunately indicative of the bigoted attitude of too many people in the county. Education, diversity of people, and respect for ecology are not valued in this county. The only thing stopping Lewis County from turning into a polluted strip mall is that no one can make money doing it yet!

More traffic and people.

Lots of development in open prairie lands.

What do you call a farm?

In our area our economic base has all but disappeared.

### **Do you have other thoughts about the effects of changes in Lewis County?**

One major effect is the decrease in owner occupied housing and an increase in rental housing.

Answers here depend on what type of change is meant.

Opportunities to buy local produce and farm products could definitely be developed.

Change may bring in small diverse farms.

The quality of life in Southern Lewis County has been adversely affected by residences overrun with trash, junk cars, and gunfire.

Local retail shopping is the pits unless you like Walmart and Kmart. I would like to see many more small independent businesses open and thrive. I would like to see more development of what Lewis County can offer: local produce and farm products, tourism.

Quality of schools remains good.

**Are there other things that you value about rural life?**

Aesthetics, open space not necessarily to use but just to be there; lack of clutter, i.e. open fields.

Independence – not having to rely on others

Peace and quiet 24 hours a day or Sundays?

What are traditional rural values?

The freedom to do what you want with your land within sound community and environmental limits; within reason.

As a rural retiree, I would like for us to maintain the status quo. This being impractical, I hope we can plan our progress at a rate to maintain our healthy, safe and moral lifestyle county-wide.

There is nothing in capitalist ideology that says jobs should come to the unemployed. To the contrary, in efficient labor markets labor goes to jobs.

Clean air and absence of traffic jams.

These are the things I value in life, and are the reasons we live in Lewis County.

The freedom to do what you want with your land, within reason.

**LEWIS COUNTY WATCH DELPHI SURVEY ON RURAL LIFE**  
**Second Questionnaire Results**

1. The first section of the previous survey asked people to rate the extent of change they had observed in various aspects of rural life. The majority of people (14-15 out of 24) rated the extent of change as “Some” for most of these questions. Based on your experience, check the answer below that best represents the time period when you feel most of this change has occurred:

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 5  | In the last 5 years  |
| 10 | In the last 10 years |
| 1  | In the last 20 years |
| 1  | In the last 30 years |
|    | In the last 50 years |

1 No Response

2. Check the box that best describes the rate of change during this time period:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| 3 | Slow     |
| 8 | Moderate |
| 7 | Rapid    |

3. A majority of people (15-16 out of 24) observed at least some new development in their neighborhoods. Check one box in each column below that best describes the rate of growth you think local roads, water supply systems, sewage disposal systems, fire departments, police, and schools can handle:

| <b>Roads</b> | <b>Water Supply</b> | <b>Sewage Disposal</b> | <b>Fire Depts.</b> | <b>Police</b> | <b>Schools</b> |                 |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 3            | 3                   | 4                      | 1                  | 1             | 2              | No growth       |
| 6            | 13                  | 9                      | 9                  | 9             | 4              | Slow growth     |
| 8            | 1                   | 3                      | 6                  | 7             | 10             | Moderate growth |
|              |                     | 1                      | 1                  |               | 1              | Rapid growth    |
| 1            | 1                   | 1                      | 1                  | 1             | 1              | Don't know      |

4. Check the box that best describes who is developing the land in the parts of the county that you are familiar with:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 | Mostly people building their own homes          |
| 3 | Mostly developers who intend to sell for profit |
| 8 | An even mix of homeowners and developers        |

2 No Response

5. Most people (19 out of 24) had observed at least some houses for sale in their neighborhood. Check the box that best describes the mix of existing housing and new development you believe is appropriate to accommodate population growth in your area:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 7 | Existing housing is enough                    |
| 6 | A few new houses are needed                   |
| 5 | Some new houses are needed                    |
|   | Extensive development of new houses is needed |

6. Where do you think developers should be encouraged to build?

|    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 11 | Within urban areas                    |
| 6  | In the fringe surrounding urban areas |
|    | In rural countryside                  |
| 1  | Wherever land is available            |

7. Check one box in each column below that best describes how far you would be willing to commute regularly to do the following activities:

| <b>Work</b> | <b>Shop</b> | <b>Day-trip recreation</b> |             |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 2           | 2           |                            | 0-5 miles   |
| 4           | 3           |                            | 6-15 miles  |
| 6           | 5           | 1                          | 16-30 miles |
| 5           | 5           | 8                          | 31-60 miles |
|             | 3           | 9                          | > 60 miles  |

8. In part 2 of the first survey a large majority of people (13 to 18 out of 24) identified negative impacts to traffic, drinking water, rivers and wildlife habitat, open space for recreation, and the ability to farm. The response was more mixed on the effect of change on local job opportunities, with a virtual even split between those who saw negative and positive impacts. Rank how well the following job categories describe the number of job opportunities being created by growth in Lewis County (1 = describes the highest number of jobs, 5 = describes the least number of jobs).

| <b>Median</b> | <b>Most Common</b> |                                     |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1             | 1                  | Retail/service jobs                 |
| 4             | 4                  | Professional/technical jobs         |
| 3             | 3,4                | Family wage trade jobs              |
| 2             | 2                  | Small business owners/entrepreneurs |
| 4             | 4                  | Management positions                |

9. In the impacts section of the first survey we did not address impacts to the visual landscape. How has change affected the view from your house?

|    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Positive effect |
| 11 | No effect       |
| 6  | Negative effect |

10. In Part 3 of the first survey a large majority of people placed high value on privacy, peace and quiet, access to open space, and the opportunity to create a unique living environment. The freedom to do what you want with your land was valued by 23 out of 24 people, with an even split between “somewhat important” and “very important”. In the boxes below, rank these aspects of rural life from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).

| <b>Median</b> | <b>Most Common</b> |   |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| 2             | 1                  | Privacy   |
| 5             | 6                  | Local economic opportunities                      |
| 2             | 1                  | Peace and quiet                                   |
| 2             | 1,2,3              | Opportunity to create a unique living environment |
| 4             | 4,5                | Freedom to do what you want with your land        |
| 4             | 2,5,6              | Access to open space for outdoor recreation       |

11. About half of the respondents rated the ability to farm for a living as “not important”. The original question asked how important the ability to farm was to you personally. How important is it to you that opportunities remain for other people who want to farm for a living in Lewis County?

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Not Important      |
| 2  | Somewhat Important |
| 15 | Very Important     |

12. Our changing economy has broadened the range of farming activities that occur in rural areas. Check all of the boxes below that you view as describing a “real” farm.

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 6  | Hobby farm for personal use and enjoyment           |
| 12 | Small farm that provides extra income               |
| 14 | Small-scale specialty farm (herbs, organic produce) |
| 17 | Farm that supports a single family                  |
| 10 | Large-scale corporate farm                          |

13. A majority of people (15 to 16 out of 24) rated local economic opportunities for yourself and your children as somewhat or not important. Irrespective of your personal economic situation, how important is it to you that there be local economic opportunities for other people in Lewis County?

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Not Important      |
| 3  | Somewhat Important |
| 14 | Very Important     |

14. A majority of people (16 out of 24) strongly valued a sense of community. A similar majority felt that knowing your neighbors was only somewhat important. This implies that people have definitions of community that are not necessarily related to the borders of their neighborhood. Check all of the boxes below that describe where you most often find your “sense of community”:

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 11 | In your neighborhood                              |
| 9  | Church/religious organizations                    |
| 13 | Through school or children’s activities           |
| 8  | Recreation/sports                                 |
| 9  | Interests groups (clubs, community service orgs.) |
| 5  | Political or community activist groups            |
| 10 | Extended family                                   |
| 1  | Local Shopping                                    |
| 1  | Community Events                                  |

15. Several people questioned what we meant by “traditional rural values”. In the line below, write a phrase that describes a traditional rural value that is important to you.

- Friendliness, Support from other community members, commitment to health of community
- Strong family and moral values
- Ability to live on your own land without excessive government interference
- Well-kept homes, open spaces, farm animals
- Respect for and practice of sustainable living using available resources
- Being able to make a living off the land
- Having people you can count on in times of need and joy
- Being able to continue farming and raising my family in a healthy environment
- Allowing areas to exist for no other reason than to be open and natural
- Raising a family near outdoor opportunities and farm animals
- Simple basic lifestyle with no crowds, traffic jams, etc.; Family centered
- Communing with nature – working with the soil and plants
- Kids wading in a creek on a warm summer day
- Forest access
- A handshake agreement is honored
- Respect for the land and for the people who live and work on it

**LEWIS COUNTY WATCH DELPHI SURVEY ON RURAL LIFE**  
**Third Questionnaire Results**

1. Local economic opportunities were rated as very important by 14 out of 18 respondents to the previous survey. Rural quality of life issues such as privacy, peace, and quiet were also strongly valued. Check all the boxes below that describe the appropriateness of the following economic activities in rural areas:

| <b>Activity/Industry</b>  | <b>Appropriate in most rural areas</b> | <b>Appropriate within 1-mile of your house</b> | <b>Not appropriate in rural areas</b> |
|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Shake/Lumber mill         | 12                                     | 5  |                                       |
| Beauty Shop               | 14                                     | 6  |                                       |
| Small home-based industry | 15                                     | 7  |                                       |
| Poultry processing plant  | 3                                      | 2  | 8                                     |
| Assisted living facility  | 10                                     | 10   | 2                                     |
| Motorcross track          | 2                                      | 3  | 8                                     |
| Small mechanics shop      | 10                                     | 9  |                                       |
| Daycare center            | 13                                     | 9  |                                       |
| Firing range              | 6                                      | 3  | 6                                     |
| Ministorage facility      | 9                                      | 8  | 4                                     |
| Warehousing facility      | 2                                      | 5  | 8                                     |
| Antique shop              | 13                                     | 7  | 2                                     |
| Bed and Breakfast         | 15                                     | 7  |                                       |
| Trucking facility         | 5                                      | 3  | 7                                     |

2. In question 6 of the previous survey 17 out of 18 respondents felt that developers should be encouraged to build within urban areas or in the fringe surrounding urban areas. 11 out of 18 were willing to drive more than 16 miles to work. Check the box below that best describes where we should focus efforts to develop economic opportunities:

|    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 10 | Within urban areas                    |
| 7  | In the fringe surrounding urban areas |
|    | In rural countryside                  |
|    | Wherever land is available            |

3. Most people felt that retail/service jobs were the most common jobs being created by growth, followed in order by small business owners, family wage trade jobs, management positions, and professional/technical jobs. Rank in order of preference the kinds of jobs we should be trying to create in Lewis County to promote economic opportunities and improve quality of rural life (1 describing the most preferred jobs, 5 the least preferred):

| Median | Most Common |                                     |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4      | 5           | Retail/service jobs                 |
| 2      | 2,3         | Professional/technical jobs         |
| 2      | 1           | Family wage trade jobs              |
| 2      | 2           | Small business owners/entrepreneurs |
| 5      | 5           | Management positions                |

4. Check the boxes below that describe ways you would be willing to work to protect the quality of rural life:

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 5  | Join a neighborhood organization   |
| 4  | Serve on an advisory committee as part of a government planning process                                |
| 7  | Work with a service organization like the Lions Club or the Grange                                     |
| 6  | Contribute to or join a local environmental group  |
| 4  | Contribute to or join a statewide or national environmental group                                      |
| 10 | Manage my land in a way that serves as an example to others  |
| 10 | Work with schools and youth groups   |
| 7  | Participate in community service projects (roadside or river cleanup days, tree planting events, etc.) |
| 4  | Come to a neighborhood potluck to talk about rural issues  |
| 8  | Promote political actions and candidates that you feel will protect rural values                       |
| 3  | Testify to county and state officials at public hearings   |

5. Check the boxes below that describe ways you would be willing to work to improve economic opportunities in Lewis County:

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 5  | Serve on a local economic advisory group  |
| 2  | Start a rural business that promotes local job opportunities                          |
| 3  | Lobby for legislation that will promote appropriate local economic opportunities      |
| 10 | Promote political candidates that you feel will work for local economic opportunities |
| 4  | Work with local business organizations (Chamber of Commerce, Farm bureau, etc.)       |
| 5  | Come to a neighborhood potluck to talk about rural economic development               |
| 12 | Alter your shopping patterns to help local businesses                                 |
| 2  | Testify to county and state officials at public hearings                              |