

Community Resources Awareness Assessment



This assessment encourages a person to consider his or her position in the community as well as aspects about the community that are or may be critical to the success of the business.

- Identify one's knowledge of community resources.
- Identify one's involvement and participation in local government.
- Identify one's knowledge of local resources available in starting or enhancing your business.

	Yes	Undecided or Don't Know	No
I am a member of the Chamber of Commerce, know who the director is, or actively participate in Chamber activities.			
I know if our community has an economic development association or organization, and who is the director.			
I know that the economic development organization can assist me in applying for grants to enhance my business.			
I know who is our community's representative for the Wyoming Business Council.			
I know what services the Wyoming Business Council has to offer me in enhancing or beginning my business.			
I know who our community's USDA Rural Development specialist is.			
I know what programs/grants are available to me through USDA Rural Development.			
I know our community's Cooperative Extension educator.			
I know what programs Cooperative Extension can offer me to enhance my business opportunities.			
I know who the mayor of my community is.			
I know who the county commissioners are in my county.			
I participate on city/county boards.			
I am familiar with zoning regulations in my community, and know if my community has a land use plan.			
I know if my community has conducted a community assessment.			
I know who my banking resources are in my community.			
I know what services Small Business Administration has to offer me in enhancing or beginning my business.			
I know what services the Small Business Development Center has to offer me.			
I know that my enterprise will be/is strongly supported by my community.			





E. Resource inventory

The resource inventory is the fourth component of the foundation for making decisions about the target land unit. The others are the personal values, goals and needs assessments. The resources of the planning unit are inventoried so that problems and opportunities are identified and current resource conditions are established for existing enterprises. Related off-site conditions are also inventoried. For example, some wildlife species are highly mobile, so it's important to know which of their requirements are met on your client's land and which components are being provided by their neighbors. Off-site conditions may also indicate opportunities for a potential diversified enterprise or for establishing a partnership that could result in a new enterprise opportunity.

Once this data has been collected for a farm or ranch, it should be analyzed to determine if current conditions are preventing the producer and his or her family from achieving their personal goals. This will be a collaborative professional effort, as a variety of disciplines and expertise will be required to accurately assist in the collection and assessment of the resource inventory information.

This information will also serve as the basis for assessing the feasibility (Section IV) of existing agricultural operations and for evaluating the feasibility of potential new enterprises for the land unit.

A map, or series of maps/overlays, of the target land unit is an essential component of the resource inventory. It provides not only a clear picture of resource locations and potential sites for diversification, but also of the interactions between the multitude of resources found on any given land unit. Most local USDA Service Centers will have maps, or the capability to create detailed maps, of the customer's land unit. Mylar overlays and/or color-coded features are useful tools for recording the various resources of the land unit.

A series of forms has been developed to assist you in helping producers conduct a comprehensive resource inventory. These forms have been





designed to capture data for existing enterprises, and collect information that could be useful in considering new, alternative agricultural enterprises. For example, which pastures have a noticeable abundance of wildflowers and when do they bloom? The time requirement to record this additional information is minimal, yet this data will be invaluable for assisting your client in examining potential new enterprises. If they are not yet sure about diversification, this information can be easily maintained in a case file for future reference.

The appropriate professional should assist producers in collecting resource information within their area of expertise. Separate forms have been created for each of the resources. Again, it will usually require multiple visits or contacts to collect this information. While the use of most of the forms is self-explanatory, guidance is provided for completing the more complex inventories. These instructions are found on each respective inventory form. Multiple copies of a form may be required to complete the inventory of some resources.



Remington ranch description



The fictional Remington ranch description is indicative of a typical farm or ranch operation that may be requesting your technical assistance. The resource inventory forms that follow would be used to organize their resource information, and to prompt the Remingtons for more detailed, resource-specific data. This information can then be used to examine the feasibility of the Remington's existing enterprises, and to identify potential new opportunities based on available resources.

Remington Ranch description

The Blue Cliff Ranch is located 24 miles from Chiseldon, Wyoming. It is nestled in the foothills adjacent to more mountainous federal lands. The ranch is a traditional cow/calf operation with 300 pairs. The ranch consists of 2,200 acres of deeded land and a U.S. Forest Service grazing lease. Much of the deeded land is rangeland. Some is in perennial grasses, and some has less desirable vegetation. The ranch also grows some native grass hay, and can produce two tons/acre of alfalfa under irrigation. Meadows are ditch irrigated and are fed by the Stormy River.

The ranch was settled in 1902 by Conrad Remington, the grandfather of Eldon Remington. It has remained family owned for the last 100 years. The original pine log cabin remains on the ranch, but is currently being used as storage. The view from this cabin is spectacular.

There is abundant timber on and near the ranch. Two ponds support good-sized trout. Elk migrate through the ranch in the fall, and some winter on the lower irrigated pastures. There is a resident herd of mule deer, and wild turkeys are becoming more abundant each year. Numerous songbirds can be heard throughout the Blue Cliff Ranch.

Chiseldon claims to have 2,600 people, however many of them are older members of the community. There is an emergency clinic, a one-runway airport, and a Super 8 Motel off the interstate. It is mainly a ranching community, supporting a couple of cafés, a Pizza Hut, and Old Ft. Ryan, a military outpost used during the Indian Wars. Old Ft. Ryan has been restored and named a historic landmark. It consists of a two-story barracks, gathering lodge, and a small historic museum.

Conrad Remington originally migrated west from Philadelphia, under questionable circumstances. Butch Cassidy, a documented friend, was held twice at Ft. Ryan, and Conrad is rumored to always have had fresh horses waiting. Conrad's journal describes Butch switching horses many times at the ranch. Compare those dates with those of hold-ups, and there is overwhelming promise that loot was stashed on the ranch. The Remington promise - you find it, you keep 90 percent of it.







Human Resources #3 – key resource people

- record key resource people, outside of the family unit and employees, who are or could be important to the agricultural operations.

Discipline	Name	Address/phone	Policy numbers
Natural resource specialists			
Business planning specialists			
Family doctor			
Clergyman			
Attorney			
Lender			
Accountant			
Financial advisor			
Health insurance			
Homeowners/ranch insurance			
Auto insurance			
Veterinarian			
Computer specialist			





Financial Resources

- record assets and liabilities for current enterprises of the target farm or ranch unit.

Assets

Current assets	Amount	Fixed assets	Value
Cash	\$	Land	\$
Savings and interest		Buildings	
Investments (stocks, bonds)		Equipment	
Accounts receivable			
Inventory (product, etc.)			
Livestock			
Stored crops			
Prepaid expenses			
Retirement			
Other		Other	

Liabilities

Current liabilities	Amount	Long-term liabilities (payable >5 years)	Amount
Property taxes	\$	Mortgages	\$
Federal taxes owed		Equipment notes	
State taxes owed			
Bills owed			
Feed, seed, fertilizer, gas			
Rent/leases			
Insurance			
Utilities			
Labor			
Marketing/trucking			
Operating expense loans			
Credit cards			
Child support/alimony			
Other		Other	





Marketing Resources

- Record the products marketed, the location and type of market, time of marketing, distance to the market, cost to market, and contact information for that market.
- Identify media market entities, such as TV radio, newspaper, Internet, and magazines.
- Record their target audience, size of their audience, their target service area, and contact information for media venue.

Current Markets:

Product	Where/how marketed?	When?	Distance from ranch	Cost		Contact information	
				Labor (hours)	\$\$	Name	Phone #

Media Markets:

Media outlets (tv, radio,paper)	Target audience	Listenership/ viewership (# households)	Target service area	Contact information	
				Name	Phone #





Land Resources

- Consists of an inventory of all land resources, both deeded and leased.
- Record the types and amounts of rangeland, pasture, crops, forest, and other lands (e.g. headquarters, borrow areas, holding pens, etc.).
- Record the locations of any right-of-ways, easements, or deed restrictions and the terms for their use.

Type	Deeded acres	Acres	Leased land Lessor (BLM, etc.)	Length of lease
Rangeland				
Irrigated pasture				
Irrigated cropland				
Dryland crops				
Forestland				
Other				

Rights-of-way on property? _____ Deed restrictions? _____ Easements? _____

Location	Terms or conditions of use





Water Resources

- Information recorded for ponds/reservoirs, wells, and streams will provide cumulative water availability, capacities, allocations, and dependability for the land unit.

Ponds/reservoirs:

Location (pasture, land unit)	Size (acres)	Depth (feet)	Capacity (ac./ft.)	Water-right allocation	Dependability (seasonal, etc.)

Wells:

Location (legal, pasture)	Age/ cond.	Depth (feet)	Capacity gal./min.	Water-right allocation	Dependability (seasonal, etc.)	Expected lifespan

Streams:

Name & location (stream, land unit)	Perennial or intermittent	Length	Flow (gal./min.)				Water-right allocation
			High	When	Low	When	





Livestock – use a separate form for each class of livestock: cattle, sheep, horses, etc.

- Record production information (number of head and value, number of sales/culls and income, number purchased annually and cost).
- Record feed and forage requirements for each type of livestock.
- Record management requirements for each type of livestock (time of year, labor demand, and who does it).

Livestock type: _____	No. of head	Value	No. sold or culled annually	Value	No. purchased annually	Cost
Mature males						
Yearling males						
Mature females						
Yearling females						
Weaned young-of-year						

Feed/forage requirements:

Type	Amount needed (AUMs, tons)	Owned (AUMs, tons)	Leased (AUMs, tons)
Rangeland forage			
Pastureland forage			
Aftermath forage			
Raised feed (kind):			
Purchased feed (kind):			

Management requirements:

Activity	Time of year (specific dates)	Labor demand	Who does it?
Breeding/AI			
Pregnancy testing			
Birthing			
Weaning			
Shipping/sales			





Facilities

- Record type, dimensions, age, condition, and expected life span of all buildings present on the land unit, and irrigation structures, fences, and roads.
- Record the type, location, age, condition, and expected lifespan of other facilities on the land unit, such as dumps, bone yards, fuel dispensing sites, and loading corrals.

Buildings – residences, barns, sheds, bunkhouse; location – headquarters, other farm, etc.

Type and location	Dimensions or lodging capacity	Age	Condition/ repairs needed	Power (Y/N)	Water (Y/N)	Expected lifespan

Irrigation structures/equipment

Type (pivot, ditch)	Location (farm, field)	Dimensions (acres, feet)	Age	Condition/ maintenance needed	Expected lifespan





Equipment needed/desired – anything needed due to an upgrade or change in operations.

Type	Justification: Why you need it	Buy it or lease	Anticipated cost	Expected lifespan

Are there any safety features that need to be added to equipment to protect the operator or any passengers? _____.

Equipment item	Safety feature needed	Planned installation	Anticipated cost	Expected lifespan





Wildlife Resources #1 – Consumptive or harvestable wildlife

- Use a separate form for each species.
- Record the number of head, annual harvest, potential harvest, hunting season dates, and locations of the species (field, pasture) during hunting season.
- Record the forage demand for each species by field or pasture.
- Record the management requirements for each species (activity, time of year, labor demand, and who does it).

Type:	No. of head	Annual harvest	Potential harvest	Hunting season dates	Locations during hunting seasons (unit, pasture)

Mature males					
Yearling males					
Mature females					
Yearling females					
Juveniles					

Forage requirements:

Location (unit, pasture)	Dates present	Kind and # (bull, cow, calf)	Range AUMs	Pasture AUMs	Crop AUMs

Totals: _____

Management requirements:

Activity	Time of year (specific dates)	Labor demand (hours)	Who does it?
Hunt/hunter mgt.			
Fence damage			
Depredation mgt.			
Habitat improvement			



