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POPULATION

INTRODUCTION:

An analysis and understanding of the population trends of the City of Elko and surrounding areas is a fundamental requisite and the basis upon which assumptions can be made regarding the future growth of the City.

The population component is intended to present basic information which will serve to illustrate the significance of various factors that cause and influence population trends and community growth.

GOAL:

To maintain a data base of population trends and forecasts to help determine the extent and magnitude of public services and facilities needed to support growth without measurable impairment of the areas natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a broad range of community services to a variety of population groups including the youth and elderly.
- To provide services and facilities to accommodate the tourist population.
- To provide emergency services, including fire and police, to fulfill the needs of the entire population.
- To provide diversity in housing types commensurate with the diversity of population within the community.
- To ensure that population growth does not exceed the ability of the City to provide basic essential services including sewer, water, transportation and parks and recreation facilities.

HISTORICAL POPULATION PERSPECTIVE:

The late 1800's were harsh and declining years for Elko. Isolation as well as adverse climatic conditions affected local business, particularly the ranching and cattle industry, which at the time was the dominant economic activity. By 1900, Elko's population had declined to 849 people in contrast to population levels in excess of 4,000 recorded in previous boom years.

In 1907, the Western Pacific Railroad was constructed and growth was stimulated. Cattle and sheep ranching renewed its influence on the local economy. By 1910, the population had increased and stabilized and has been increasing ever since.

In 1931, the Nevada Legislature passed the law which authorized modern legalized gambling in the State of Nevada. Tourism and gaming became increasingly important to the economic life of the City. Elko no longer depended exclusively on ranching, agriculture and mining to totally sustain the local economy.

The resurgence of the mining industry in the late 1970's and 1980's, due to technological advances, influenced population growth significantly. During the decade of the 1980's, population levels within the City of Elko nearly doubled. During that same time frame, according to Nevada Small Business Development Center, mining employment within Elko County rose from approximately 200 to 1400 individuals.

CITY OF ELKO POPULATION - ACCORDING TO U.S. CENSUS 1900 - 1990	
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL POPULATION</u>
1900	849
1910	1,677
1920	2,173
1930	3,217
1940	4,094
1950	5,393
1960	6,298
1970	7,621
1980	8,758
1990	14,736

- ✓ *The numerical increase of population for the City of Elko from 1900 to 1950 was 4,544 persons, representing a percent increase in excess of 500% for the 50 year period. This increase can be contrasted with a 110 percent increase for Elko County and a 900 percent increase for the State of Nevada for that 50 year time frame.*
- ✓ *Between 1950 and 1990, the City of Elko added 9,343 persons to its population, an increase of approximately 450%. Elko County population levels increased comparably and, according to census data, Nevada recorded the greatest percentage of growth among the fifty states with a 650% increase for that same 1950 to 1990 time frame. Nevada also had the highest growth rate between 1980 and 1990 with an increase in excess of 50%.*

CURRENT POPULATION TRENDS:

According to the 1990 census, the population estimate for the City of Elko was established at 14,736. Since 1990, population estimates have been provided on an annual basis by the Nevada State Demographer's Office and are listed in the following table:

CITY OF ELKO			
Population and Rate of Change			
According to State Demographer's Office			
1990 - 1996			
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>RATE OF GROWTH</u>
1990	14,950	-	-
1991	15,730	780	5.2%
1992	16,270	540	3.4%
1993	16,570	300	1.8%
1994	17,110	540	3.3%
1995	18,000	890	5.2%
1996	18,570	570	3.2%

- ✓ *Between 1990 and 1996, the City of Elko increased population levels by 3,620. This figure represents a 26% rate of growth during that 6 year time frame.*
- ✓ *A 5.2% rate of growth was experienced during 1991 in contrast to a 1.8% rate of growth for 1993. The average annual rate of growth for that 6 year period was 3.7%.*

Population estimates for Elko County during the same 1990-1996 time frame are listed in the following table:

ELKO COUNTY			
Population and Rate of Change			
According to State Demographer's Office			
1990 - 1996			
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>RATE OF GROWTH</u>
1990	33,770	-	-
1991	35,950	2,180	6.5%
1992	37,420	1,470	4.1%
1993	39,340	1,920	5.1%
1994	41,050	1,710	4.3%
1995	43,050	2,000	4.9%
1996	45,630	2,580	6.0%

- ✓ *Between 1990 and 1996, Elko County increased population levels by 11,860. This figure represents a 35% rate of growth during that 6 year time frame.*
- ✓ *Elko County rates of growth from year to year were reasonably consistent. The average annual rate of growth for that 6 year period was 5.1%.*

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS:

According to 1990 census data, population characteristics in areas of sex, age and ethnicity are outlined as follows:

SEX	
Male	7,706
Female	7,030
 AGE	
Under 5 years	1,397
5 to 17 years	3,108
18 to 20 years	592
21 to 24 years	873
25 to 44 years	5,227
45 to 54 years	1,508
55 to 59 years	485
60 to 64 years	397
65 to 74 years	647
75 to 84 years	373
85 years and over	129
 Median Age	 30
 Under 18 years	 4,505
Percentage of Total Population	30.6
 65 years and Over	 1,149
Percentage of Total Population	7.3
 ETHNICITY	
White	13,146
Black	63
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	404
Asian or Pacific Islander	173
Hispanic Origin	2,215
Other Race	950

VISITOR POPULATION:

According to the Elko chamber of Commerce, as of 1996, there are 1656 motel/hotel rooms within the City. Approximately 8% of these rooms are occupied on a semi-permanent to permanent basis. Consequently, with an assumed 80 to 90 percent room occupancy rate, and an assumed 2 occupants per room, visitor population can increase the overall population within the City by an amount of approximately 3,000.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION:

Within the City of Elko, the higher concentrations of population appear to be within the core area of the City, that is, Interstate 80 on the north and the Humboldt River and Lamoille Highway on the south. Other areas reflect lower density patterns of development. Overall population distribution throughout the City is depicted on the map entitled 1995 Population Density By Census Block.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS:

The ability to forecast population growth rates and future levels of population with reasonable accuracy is critical in terms of being able to determine the extent of infrastructure and public facilities needed to serve the community within impairing the quality of life or measurably impacting the environmental character and resources of the area.

Three population forecasting assumptions are offered for consideration and are representative of a low, moderate and high growth rate for the City of Elko.

- The low scenario assumes a 2.6% annual growth rate for the City of Elko which is the rate being recommended by the State Demographer’s Office.
- The moderate scenario assumes a 3% annual growth rate for the City of Elko which is representative of the average annual rate of growth experienced by the City over the past ten (10) years.
- The high scenario assumes a 5% annual growth rate for the City of Elko which is representative of peak periods of growth experienced by the City over the past ten (10) years.

Year	CITY OF ELKO - Projected Population Growth 1996 - 2010		
	Growth Rate 2.6%	Growth Rate 3%	Growth Rate 5%
1996	18,570	18,570	18,570
1997	19,052	19,127	19,498
1998	19,547	19,701	20,473
1999	20,055	20,292	21,497
2000	20,576	20,901	22,572
2001	21,111	21,528	23,701
2002	21,660	22,174	24,886
2003	22,223	22,839	26,130
2004	22,801	23,524	27,436
2005	23,394	24,230	28,808
2006	24,002	24,957	30,248
2007	24,646	25,706	31,760
2008	25,286	26,477	33,348
2009	25,943	27,271	35,015
2010	26,618	28,089	36,766

Because of Elko’s status as an entrepot, county seat, cultural and economic center of Northeast

Nevada, it is important for the City to have an understanding of future population growth rates and trends for surrounding, outlying areas within Elko County.

A scenario for future county population growth based on the same population forecasting assumptions is presented in the following table:

ELKO COUNTY Projected Population Growth 1996 - 2010			
Year	Growth Rate 2.6%	Growth Rate 3%	Growth Rate 5%
1996	45,630	45,630	45,630
1997	46,816	46,999	47,912
1998	48,033	48,409	50,308
1999	49,282	49,861	52,823
2000	50,563	51,367	55,464
2001	51,878	52,908	58,237
2002	53,227	54,495	61,149
2003	54,611	56,130	64,206
2004	56,031	57,813	67,416
2005	57,488	59,547	70,787
2006	58,983	61,333	74,326
2007	60,517	63,173	78,042
2008	62,090	65,068	81,944
2009	63,704	67,020	86,041
2010	65,360	69,031	90,343

POLICIES/ACTION STRATEGIES:

The following items represent basic strategies for implementation of the identified goals and objectives of the Population Component:

1. The City will monitor and keep accurate records of building permit activity and occupancy certification as a means of tracking population growth trends within the City.
2. The Population Component shall be coordinated with other components of the City Master Plan, in particular, with the Public Services and Facilities Component.
3. The City will work cooperatively with the County, the State, the school district, other agencies, and utility companies to ensure that population data is current and accurate.
4. The City shall recognize trends and demographic characteristics related to specialized groups such as youth, the elderly and the tourist population in planning for long range facility and infrastructure expansion.
5. Community economic diversity shall be pursued and supported by the City as a means of stabilizing and enhancing levels of population.
6. Long range facility and infrastructure planning, particularly for water and sewer services, shall assume, at a minimum, an annual growth rate of 3% through the year 2010.
7. Sustained and documented rates of growth less than or greater than an annual growth rate of 3% shall be cause for reevaluation of established long range service and infrastructure planning policies.