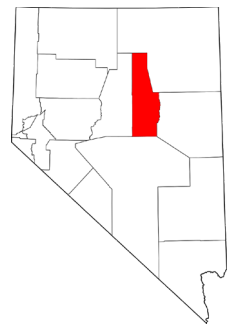


**THE 2022 ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA, 2020 THROUGH 2025**



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Amy Fleming

and

Frederick A. Steinmann

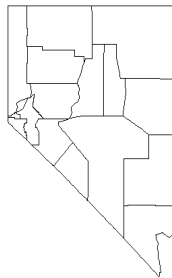
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Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Economic Development Vision

Eureka County will diversify, innovate, and grow the county’s economy through continued diversification, innovation and growth by investing in key industry sectors, including mining, agriculture, natural resources and small business development and expansion.

Eureka County values our rich rural heritage and lifestyle and future economic development diversification, innovation, and growth will be pursued only if it is consistent with the rich rural heritage and lifestyle that we value

Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Reprioritized Strategic Economic Development Goals for 2022 through 2023

Priority Area No. 1: Continue to pursue and complete community development related programs and projects designed to address emerging concerns ranging from infrastructure to housing to expanded primary and more advanced healthcare services.

Existing Goal No. 1.1: Within five years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support the aging population of the county.

Existing Goal No. 1.2: Recruit light industry through the development of a fully functional rail siding/spur and/or Industrial Rail Park within Eureka County to accommodate the import of supplies and the export of products.

Existing Goal No. 1.3: Collaborate with developers to build new multi-family housing options (apartments, duplex, 4-plex, etc.) and no less than ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019.

Priority Area No. 2: Continue to address water supply concerns and continue to work with existing private sector firms in primary industry sectors (agriculture and mining and natural resource extraction) in order to reduce water consumption in existing operations.

Existing Goal No. 2.1: Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system.

Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Reprioritized Strategic Economic Development Goals for 2022 through 2023

Priority Area No. 3: Promote and enhance Eureka County’s tourism and outdoor recreation sector through new marketing efforts and related infrastructure, housing, new business creation and attraction strategies, and efforts to retain and expand existing businesses that directly support Eureka County’s tourism and outdoor recreation sector.

Existing Goal No. 3.1: Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020.

Existing Goal No. 3.2: Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources.

Priority Area No. 4: Support new business creation and attraction strategies and existing business retention efforts designed to support the continued growth and diversification of existing primary industry sectors (agriculture, mining and natural resource extraction, and tourism and outdoor recreation) through the promotion of existing and emerging small business and entrepreneurial-based funding and technical assistance support services and through improved marketing efforts.

Existing Goal No. 4.1: Create one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024.

Existing Goal No. 4.2: Mining diversification from gold – vanadium and Moly prospects.

Completed: Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021.

Completed: Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20,000 CAPEX, one to three jobs each) in Eureka County by December 2024.

1.0 Introduction

Overview

What is strategy? According to John E. Gamble, Margaret A. Peteraf, and Arthur A. Thompson, in their 2015 book, *Essentials of Strategic Management: The Quest for Competitive Advantage*, “A strategy is a way of describing **how** you are going to get things done. It is less specific than an action plan (which tells the who-what-when); instead, it tries to broadly answer the question, ‘How do we get there from here?’ Do we want to take the train? Fly? Walk?” In short, a strategic plan provides an organization or community with a fundamental affirmation of the organization or community’s core values, strategic mission, and strategic vision while outlining the goals, objectives, and implementation measures the organization or community will attempt to achieve and implement over the strategic planning horizon.

Typically, a strategic plan includes three basic elements. First, the strategic plan is a recognition of the existing barriers an organization or community faces and the resources the organization or community has at its disposal to achieve strategic objectives. Second, the strategic plan is generally tied to an overall vision, mission, and a set of clearly defined objectives. And third, the strategic plan provides direction to the organization or community for the organization or community’s future planned initiatives focusing on providing information, enhancing support, removing barriers, and providing resources to different parts of the organization or community and key stakeholders who have an interest in the achievement of the strategic plan.

When evaluating and developing a strategic plan, five basic questions must be answered, including:

- Does the strategic plan give overall direction to the organization? The strategic plan should point out the overall path without dictating a particular narrow approach.
- Does the strategic plan realistically fit available resources with identified opportunities? The strategic plan should take advantage of current resources and assets while embracing new opportunities for growth and success.
- Does the strategic plan minimize existing and future resistance and barriers the organization currently confronts and may have to address in the future? The strategic plan should keep in mind that opposition and resistance to implementation of the strategic plan is inevitable. Good strategic plans should attract allies and deter opponents.
- Does the strategic plan reach those that may be affected, positively and negatively, by implementing the strategic plan? The strategic plan should connect the intervention with those who it should benefit while minimizing potential negative impacts to those impacted by the plan.

-
- Does the strategic plan advance the strategic mission of the organization? The strategy should make a difference on the mission of the organization while enabling the organization to achieve stated goals and objectives.

Unlike strategic plans for private sector firms, a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, as outlined in Title 13 Part 303 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, must focus on how a public sector economic development organization and authority will bring together the public and private sectors through the creation of an economic roadmap designed to diversify and strengthen regional and local economies. The inherent public sector nature of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy requires consideration of both economic and community development goals and objectives in order to support and facilitate an environment of growth, investment, and job creation.

Between July 2019 and September 2019, public sector, private sector, and non-profit organization representatives participated in a series of community strategic economic development planning workshops for the purpose of developing a series of community-level Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies aimed at guiding community-level and regional economic development efforts for the five-year 2020 through 2025 period. Individual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy documents were developed for Elko County, Eureka County, Lander County, and White Pine County and for the individual communities of the City of Carlin, the City of Wells, and the City of West Wendover. These individual community-level and countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy documents, along with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority's regional five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy were then successfully submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Seattle Regional Office in 2020 and the first set of annual assessments, evaluations, and updates to each existing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy were completed in late 2021 and early 2022.

As required by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, faculty and staff from the University Center for Economic Development, part of the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, worked with representatives from the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority to complete a second annual assessment, evaluation, and update for each of the individual community level and countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority's regional five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This second round of annual assessments, evaluations, and updates was completed for the countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies for Eureka County, Lander County, and White Pine County, for the individual communities of the City of Carlin, the City of Wells, and the City of West Wendover, and for the remainder of Elko County which includes the City of Elko and the communities of Jackpot and Spring Creek.

The process used to complete this second round of annual assessments, evaluations, and updates to each individual community level and countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and to the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority's regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was modified from the first round completed

in late 2021 and early 2022. Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority staff conducted a series of individual meetings with the designated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for each individual community and county and with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority to complete an updated strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis, to evaluate the progress that had been made over the past year of implementation in achieving each individual economic development goal, and to identify priority areas and priority projects for the coming year of implementation. Northern Nevada Regional Development Authority staff then surveyed various public sector, private sector, and several community-based and non-profit agency, firm, and organization stakeholders at the community, county, and regional level to gather additional input for the annual assessment, evaluation, and update of each individual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

For the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the City of Wells, faculty from the University Center for Economic Development facilitated a half-day workshop in Wells, Nevada with representatives from the City of Wells, from various private sector firms, and with representatives of several community-based non-profit organizations on September 29, 2022. This workshop included a series of facilitated small group exercises including the development of a revised strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis, an evaluation of the existing strategic economic development goals, and the development of a series of priority areas and priority projects that the City of Wells will pursue in partnership with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority over the coming year of implementation of the existing five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the City of Wells. For the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the remainder of Elko County, including the City of Elko and the communities of Jackpot and Spring Creek, Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority staff completed similar meetings with community and countywide stakeholders followed by a follow-up survey designed to gather additional information and insight regarding the existing five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. For the community of Spring Creek specifically, faculty from the University Center for Economic Development have been working with the Spring Creek Association to develop a new five-year community and organizational strategic plan for the community of Spring Creek and for the Spring Creek Association. The results of this Spring Creek Association specific strategic planning effort have been incorporated into the annual assessment, evaluation, and update of the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the remainder of Elko County and for the City of Elko and the communities of Jackpot and Spring Creek.

This University Center for Economic Development technical report presents the completed annual assessment, evaluation, and update to the existing five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the City of Carlin covering the 2020 through 2025 period. Section 2.0 of this University Center for Economic Development technical report presents an updated socio-demographic and economic data profile of each county and community within the northeastern Nevada region. It should be noted that, while the University Center for Economic Development utilizes data primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates, a brief comparison between the data presented in Section 2.0 of this technical report and data certified by the Nevada State Demographer's Office often results in significant differences, especially in the estimation of total population and other demographic statistics. U.S. Census Bureau data is primarily used in this technical report in

compliance with U.S. Economic Development Administration requirements. Section 3.0 of this University Center for Economic Development technical report presents an overview of potential revisions to the goals and actionable items, and specific resiliency and recovery actions developed by community leaders and representatives.

2.0 Analysis: Existing Community and Regional Conditions

This section presents a comprehensive analysis of the level of economic distress for the northeastern Nevada region and a comprehensive overview of updated socio-demographic, economic, and industry and occupation sector data for individual communities and counties within the northeastern Nevada region. The results of this socio-demographic, economic, and industry and occupation sector data analysis were presented to the various public sector, private sector, and community-based non-profit sector representatives who participated in this second annual assessment, evaluation, and update of the various community level and countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and of the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority's current five-year regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

2.1 Analysis of the Level of Economic Distress for Eureka County

Estimates for the civilian unemployment rate and per capita income were evaluated for each of the individual communities within the northeastern Nevada region to identify the level of 'economic distress' for each community using applicable U.S. Economic Development Administration guidelines. Determination of the level and type of economic distress is used to evaluate specific community needs and will be incorporated into future comprehensive economic development strategy updates for this region.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's guidelines for 'economic distress' are defined in Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Section 301.3 Part 301 Subpart C and are as follows:

- An unemployment rate that is, for the most recent twenty-four (24) month period for which data is available, at least one (1) percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate;
- Per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data are available, eighty (80) percent or less of the national average per capita income; or
- A Special Need, as determined by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Table 2.1 presents a comparison of the most recent twenty-four (24) month period for which unemployment data is available for both Eureka County and for the United States, as well as per capita income for both Eureka County and the United States for 2020 and 2021. In order to estimate the twenty-four (24) month unemployment rate, the unemployment rates for both Eureka County and for the United States for both 2020 and 2021 were averaged and compared.

Over the 2020 and 2021 period, the estimated average civilian unemployment rate for Eureka County was an estimated 0.0 percent. Nationally, the estimated average civilian unemployment rate for the entire United States was an estimated 5.4 percent. Over the past twenty-four (24) months of available data, the estimated civilian unemployment rate for Eureka County was an estimated **5.4 percent less than the national estimated average**. Based upon this estimate, Eureka County **does not qualify** as an economically distressed community under the unemployment rate definition outlined in Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Section 301.3 Part 301 Subpart C.

Table 2.1 – Comparison of Unemployment and Per Capita Income Eureka County and United States 2020 and 2021			
	2020	2021	2020 and 2021 Average
Civilian Unemployment Rate			
Eureka County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Difference between Eureka County and National Estimates	-5.4%	-5.5%	-5.4%
United States National	5.4%	5.5%	5.4%
Per Capita Income			
Eureka County	\$30,516	\$26,443	\$28,480
Percentage of U.S. National Estimate	86.2%	70.3%	78.0%
United States National	\$35,384	\$37,638	\$36,511

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2020 and 2021

Over the two-year 2020 and 2021 period, the estimated average per capita income for Eureka County was an estimated \$28,480. Nationally, the estimated average per capita income for the entire United States was an estimated \$36,511. Over the past twenty-four (24) months of available data, the estimated per capita income for Eureka County was an estimated **78.0 percent of the national average**. Based upon this estimate, Eureka County **qualifies** as an economically distressed community under the per capita income definition outlined in Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Section 301.3 Part 301 Subpart C.

In addition to these unemployment rate and per capita income estimates, representatives from Eureka County, several individual communities from across the county, various private sector and industry representatives, and representatives from the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, during a series of facilitated strategic economic development planning workshops held between October 2022 and December 2022, identified a number of additional special needs. These additional special needs include a growing need to address ongoing population and civilian workforce decline, the aging of the county’s total residential population, an increase in the proportion of individuals living below the poverty line, a significant decrease in median household and per capita income, and the need to better diversify the county’s underlying economic base. These and other special needs are detailed throughout this University Center for Economic Development technical report.

2.2 Socio-Demographic and Economic Trends for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority Region

As part of the 2022 annual assessment, evaluation, and update of this current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, eleven separate socio-demographic, economic, and industry and occupation sector data categories were examined in order to evaluate and identify potential special needs as part of the ‘economic distress’ definition outlined in Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Section 301.3 Part 301 Subpart C. These categories include total population, median age, total number of households and average household size, median household income, median family income, and per capita income, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line, civilian workforce and the civilian unemployment rate, and total civilian employment by major industry sector. Whenever possible, comparison of local and countywide trends to statewide and national trends are provided for the 2013 to 2021 period.

2.2.a Total Population

Table 2.2 presents the change in total population for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, for the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2021, the total population for all of Elko County increased from an estimated 50,023 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 53,420 total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 3,397 total individuals or by 6.8 percent. For the City of Carlin, total population decreased between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from an estimated 2,701 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 2,279 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 422 total individuals or by -15.6 percent. Total population for the City of Elko increased from an estimated 37,670 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 42,179 total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 4,509 total individuals or by 12.0 percent while total population for the City of Wells decreased from an estimated 1,986 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 1,917 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 69 total individuals or by -3.5 percent. The total population for the City of West Wendover increased from an estimated 4,442 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 4,517 total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 75 total individuals or by 1.7 percent.

Table 2.2 – Total Population				
Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	50,023	53,420	3,397	6.8%
Carlin	2,701	2,279	-422	-15.6%
Elko	37,670	42,179	4,509	12.0%
Wells	1,986	1,917	-69	-3.5%
West Wendover	4,442	4,517	75	1.7%
Eureka County	1,804	1,603	-201	-11.1%
Eureka	1,340	1,040	-300	-22.4%
Lander County	5,844	5,729	-115	-2.0%
Austin	580	258	-322	-55.5%
Battle Mountain	5,264	5,471	207	3.9%
White Pine County	10,023	9,192	-831	-8.3%
Ely	5,718	5,574	-144	-2.5%
State of Nevada	2,730,066	3,059,238	329,172	12.1%
United States	311,536,594	329,725,481	18,188,887	5.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

For all of Eureka County, the total population countywide decreased from an estimated 1,804 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 1,603 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 201 total individuals or by -11.1 percent and the total population for just the town of Eureka decreased from an estimated 1,340 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 1,040 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 300 total individuals or by -22.4 percent. The total population for all of Lander County decreased from an estimated 5,844 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 5,729 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 115 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -2.0 percent. For the town of Austin, located in southern Lander County, the total population decreased from an estimated 580 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 258 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 322 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -55.5 percent while the total population for the town of Battle Mountain, located in northern Lander County, increased from an estimated 5,264 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 5,471 total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 207 total individuals or by 3.9 percent.

For White Pine County, the countywide population decreased from an estimated 10,023 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 9,192 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 831 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -8.3 percent. The total population of the City of Ely, located in White Pine County, decreased between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from an estimated 5,718 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 5,574 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 144 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of 2.5 percent. Comparatively, the total population for the entire state of Nevada increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 2.73 million total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 3.06 million total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 329,172 total individuals or by 12.1 percent. Nationwide, the total population for the entire United States increased from an estimated 311.54 million total

individuals in 2013 to an estimated 329.73 million total individuals in 2021, a net increase of approximately 18.19 million total individuals or by 5.8 percent.

2.2.b Median Age

Table 2.3 presents the change in median age for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Table 2.3 – Median Age				
Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	33.3	34.9	1.6	4.8%
Carlin	35.2	38.5	3.3	9.4%
Elko	33.1	33.9	0.8	2.4%
Wells	39.5	45.5	6.0	15.2%
West Wendover	26.1	36.6	10.5	40.2%
Eureka County	38.3	42.5	4.2	11.0%
Eureka	34.9	27.1	-7.8	-22.3%
Lander County	37.3	38.9	1.6	4.3%
Austin	34.2	35.0	0.8	2.3%
Battle Mountain	37.8	39.3	1.5	4.0%
White Pine County	40.9	41.3	0.4	1.0%
Ely	43.1	41.7	-1.4	-3.2%
State of Nevada	36.6	38.3	1.7	4.6%
United States	37.3	38.4	1.1	2.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

The estimated median age for all of Elko County increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated median age of 33.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 34.9 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 1.6 years of age or by 4.8 percent. For the City of Carlin, the estimated median age increased from an estimated 35.2 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 38.5 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 3.3 years of age or by 9.4 percent. The median age for the City of Elko increased from an estimated 33.1 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 33.9 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 0.8 years of age or by 2.4 percent while the median age for the City of Wells increased between 2013 and 2021, from an estimated 39.5 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 45.5 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 6.0 years of age or by 15.2 percent. For the City of West Wendover, the estimated median age increased significantly, increasing from an estimated 26.1 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 36.6 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 10.5 years of age or by 40.2 percent.

For all of Eureka County, the estimated median age increased between 2013 and 2021, from an estimated 38.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 42.5 years of age in 2021, a net increase of

4.2 years of age or by 11.0 percent. The estimated median age for just the town of Eureka also decreased between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from an estimated 34.9 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 27.1 years of age in 2021, a net decrease of 7.8 years of age or by -22.3 percent. For all of Lander County, the estimated median age increased only slightly between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 37.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 38.9 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 1.6 years of age or by 4.3 percent. For just the town of Austin, the estimated median age increased slightly between 2013 and 2021 from an estimated 34.2 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 35.0 years of age in 2021, a net increase of just 0.8 years of age or by 2.3 percent, while the estimated median age for just the town of Battle Mountain increased from an estimated 37.8 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 39.3 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 1.5 years of age or by 4.0 percent.

The estimated median age for all of White Pine County increased slightly from an estimated 40.9 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 41.3 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 0.4 years of age or by a percentage increase of 1.0 percent. For just the City of Ely, the estimated median age decreased between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from an estimated 43.1 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 41.7 years of age in 2021, a net decrease of 1.4 years of age or by a percentage decrease of -3.2 percent. Comparatively, the estimated median age for the entire state of Nevada increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 36.6 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 38.3 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 1.7 years of age or by 4.6 percent. Nationwide, the estimated median age for the entire United States increased from an estimated 37.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 38.4 years of age in 2021, a net increase of 1.1 years of age or by 2.9 percent.

2.2.c Total Number of Households

Table 2.4 presents the change in the total number of households for each county and community within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2021, the total number of households in all of Elko County increased from an estimated 17,599 total households in 2013 to an estimated 18,614 total households in 2021, a net increase of 1,015 total households or by 5.8 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the total number of households decreased between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from an estimated 937 total households in 2013 to an estimated 757 total households in 2021, a net decrease of 180 total households or by a percentage decrease of -19.2 percent. For just the City of Elko, the total number of households increased from an estimated 13,287 total households in 2013 to an estimated 14,640 total households in 2021, a net increase of 1,353 total households or by 10.2 percent while the total number of households for just the City of Wells decreased significantly, decreasing from an estimated 800 total households in 2013 to an estimated 589 total households in 2021, a net decrease of 211 total households or by a percentage decrease of -26.4 percent. For just the City of West Wendover, the total number of households increased significantly between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 1,362 total households in 2013 to an estimated 1,845 total households in 2021, a net increase of 483 total households or by 35.5 percent.

Table 2.4 – Total Number of Households Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	17,599	18,614	1,015	5.8%
Carlin	937	757	-180	-19.2%
Elko	13,287	14,640	1,353	10.2%
Wells	800	589	-211	-26.4%
West Wendover	1,362	1,845	483	35.5%
Eureka County	733	555	-178	-24.3%
Eureka	504	274	-230	-45.6%
Lander County	2,010	2,298	288	14.3%
Austin	207	157	-50	-24.2%
Battle Mountain	1,803	2,141	338	18.7%
White Pine County	3,357	3,482	125	3.7%
Ely	2,155	2,478	323	15.0%
State of Nevada	999,016	1,141,952	142,936	14.3%
United States	115,610,216	124,010,992	8,400,776	7.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

For all of Eureka County, the total number of households decreased between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from 733 total households in 2013 to 555 total households in 2021, a net decrease of 178 total households or by -24.3 percent while the total number of households for just the town of Eureka decreased significantly from 504 total households in 2013 to 274 total households in 2021, a net decrease of 230 total households or by -45.6 percent. For all of Lander County, the total number of households increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 2,010 total households in 2013 to an estimated 2,298 total households in 2021, a net increase of 288 total households or by 14.3 percent. For just the town of Austin, the total number of households decreased from an estimated 207 total households in 2013 to an estimated 157 total households in 2021, a net decrease of 50 total households or by -24.2 percent while the total number of households for just the town of Battle Mountain increased significantly from an estimated 1,803 total households in 2013 to an estimated 2,141 total households in 2021, a net increase of 338 total households or by 18.7 percent.

Between 2013 and 2021, the total number of households for all of White Pine County increased from an estimated 3,357 total households in 2013 to an estimated 3,482 total households in 2021, a net increase of 125 total households or by 3.7 percent. For just the City of Ely, the total number of households also increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 2,155 total households in 2013 to an estimated 2,478 total households in 2021, a net increase of 323 total households or by 15.0 percent. Statewide, the total number of households for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated 999,016 total households in 2013 to an estimated 1.14 million total households in 2021, a net increase of 142,936 total households or by 14.3 percent. Nationwide, the total number of households for the entire United States increased from an estimated 115.61 million total households in 2013 to an estimated 124.01 million total

households in 2021, a net increase of 8.4 million total households or by a percentage increase of 7.3 percent.

2.2.d Average Household Size

Table 2.5 presents the change in average household size for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Table 2.5 – Average Household Size				
Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	2.80	2.82	0.02	0.7%
Carlin	2.70	2.80	0.10	3.7%
Elko	2.81	2.86	0.05	1.8%
Wells	2.34	3.04	0.70	29.9%
West Wendover	3.26	2.45	-0.81	-24.8%
Eureka County	2.43	2.88	0.45	18.5%
Eureka	2.61	3.78	1.17	44.8%
Lander County	2.87	2.47	-0.40	-13.9%
Austin	2.78	1.61	-1.17	-42.1%
Battle Mountain	2.88	2.54	-0.34	-11.8%
White Pine County	2.74	2.19	-0.55	-20.1%
Ely	2.60	2.22	-0.38	-14.6%
State of Nevada	2.70	2.65	-0.05	-1.9%
United States	2.63	2.60	-0.03	-1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

For all of Elko County, the estimated average household size increased from an estimated 2.80 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.82 people per household in 2021, a net increase of 0.02 people per household or by 0.7 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the estimated average household size increased from an estimated 2.70 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.80 people per household in 2021, a net increase of 0.10 people per household or by 3.7 percent, while the estimated average household size for the City of Elko increased from an estimated 2.81 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.86 people per household in 2021, a net increase of 0.05 people per household or by 1.8 percent. For the City of Wells, the estimated average household size increased from an estimated 2.34 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 3.34 people per household in 2021, a net increase of 0.70 people per household or by 29.9 percent while the average household size for the City of West Wendover decreased from an estimated 3.26 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.45 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of 0.81 people per household or by -24.8 percent.

Between 2013 and 2021, the estimated average household size increased from an estimated 2.43 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.88 people per household in 2021, a net increase of 0.45 people per household or by 18.5 percent, while the average household size for just the town of Eureka increased significantly, increasing from an estimated 2.61 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 3.78 people per household in 2021, a net increase of 1.17 people per household or by 44.8 percent. For all of Lander County, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.87 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.47 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of 0.40 people per household or by -13.9 percent. The average household size for just the town of Austin decreased from an estimated 2.78 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 1.61 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of 1.17 people per household or by -42.1 percent. For just the town of Battle Mountain, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.88 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.54 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of 0.34 people per household or by a percentage decrease of -11.8 percent.

Between 2013 and 2021, the estimated average household size for all of White Pine County decreased from an estimated 2.74 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.19 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of 0.55 people per household or by -20.1 percent. For just the City of Ely, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.60 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.22 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of 0.38 people per household or by a percentage decrease of -11.8 percent. Statewide, the estimated average household size for the entire state of Nevada decreased slightly, decreasing from an estimated 2.70 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.65 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of just 0.05 people per household or by -1.9 percent. Nationwide, the estimated average household size for the entire United States also decreased only slightly, decreasing from an estimated 2.63 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.60 people per household in 2021, a net decrease of just 0.03 people per household or by a percentage decrease of -1.1 percent.

2.2.e Median Household Income

Table 2.6 presents the change in median household income (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) for each county and community within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2021, the estimated median household income for all Elko County increased from an estimated \$70,238 in 2013 to an estimated \$82,462 in 2021, a net increase of \$12,224 or by 17.4 percent. Over the same 2013 to 2021 period, the estimated median household income for the City of Carlin, the City of Elko, the City of Wells, and the City of West Wendover all increased. For the City of Carlin, the estimated median household income increased by a total of \$3,627 or by 5.2 percent between 2013 and 2021, increased by an estimated \$15,326 or by a percentage increase of 20.2 percent for the City of Elko, increased by an estimated \$7,500 or by a percentage increase of 16.0 percent for the City of Wells, and increased significantly by an estimated \$15,335 or by 43.3 percent for the City of West Wendover.

Table 2.6 – Median Household Income (2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	\$70,238	\$82,462	\$12,224	17.4%
Carlin	\$69,107	\$72,734	\$3,627	5.2%
Elko	\$75,989	\$91,315	\$15,326	20.2%
Wells	\$46,875	\$54,375	\$7,500	16.0%
West Wendover	\$37,740	\$54,075	\$16,335	43.3%
Eureka County	\$64,632	\$68,307	\$3,675	5.7%
Eureka	\$50,268	\$82,917	\$32,649	64.9%
Lander County	\$72,742	\$92,543	\$19,801	27.2%
Austin	\$43,809	\$26,563	-\$17,246	-39.4%
Battle Mountain	\$76,090	\$93,859	\$17,769	23.4%
White Pine County	\$48,586	\$63,590	\$15,004	30.9%
Ely	\$49,316	\$64,987	\$15,671	31.8%
State of Nevada	\$52,800	\$65,686	\$12,886	24.4%
United States	\$53,046	\$69,021	\$15,975	30.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

For all of Eureka County, the estimated median household income increased from an estimated \$64,632 in 2013 to an estimated \$68,307 in 2021, a net increase of \$3,675 or by a percentage increase of 5.7 percent while the estimated median household income for just the town of Eureka increased significantly between 2013 and 2021, increasing by an estimated \$32,649 or by a percentage increase of 64.9 percent. For all of Lander County, the estimated median household income increased from an estimated \$72,742 in 2013 to an estimated \$92,543 in 2021, a net increase of \$19,801 or by 27.2 percent. The estimated median household income for the town of Austin decreased from an estimated \$43,809 in 2013 to an estimated \$26,563 in 2021, a net decrease of \$17,246 or by -39.4 percent. The estimated median household income for just the town of Battle Mountain increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing by an estimated \$17,769 or by a percentage increase of 23.4 percent.

Between 2013 and 2021, the estimated median household income for all of White Pine County increased from an estimated \$48,586 in 2013 to an estimated \$63,590 in 2021, a net increase of \$15,004 or by an estimated 30.9 percent. For just the City of Ely, the estimated median household income also increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing by an estimated \$15,671 or by a percentage increase of 31.8 percent.

Statewide, the estimated median household income for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated \$52,800 in 2013 to an estimated \$65,686 in 2021, a net increase of \$12,886 or by a percentage increase of 24.4 percent. Nationwide, the estimated median household income for the entire United States increased from an estimated \$53,046 in 2013 to an estimated \$69,021 in 2021, a net increase of \$15,975 or by a percentage increase of 30.1 percent.

2.2.f Median Family Income

Table 2.7 presents the change in median family income (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) for each county and community within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Table 2.7 – Median Family Income (2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	\$75,231	\$95,153	\$19,922	26.5%
Carlin	\$75,046	\$90,441	\$15,395	20.5%
Elko	\$84,458	\$100,675	\$16,217	19.2%
Wells	\$55,500	\$71,610	\$16,110	29.0%
West Wendover	\$41,208	\$85,710	\$44,502	108.0%
Eureka County	\$94,648	\$69,271	-\$25,377	-26.8%
Eureka	\$64,853	\$86,250	\$21,397	33.0%
Lander County	\$75,857	\$94,475	\$18,618	24.5%
Austin	\$60,278	NA	NA	NA
Battle Mountain	\$80,313	\$94,503	\$14,190	17.7%
White Pine County	\$63,982	\$83,529	\$19,547	30.6%
Ely	\$63,459	\$86,865	\$23,406	36.9%
State of Nevada	\$61,359	\$78,456	\$17,097	27.9%
United States	\$64,719	\$85,028	\$20,309	31.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

Between 2013 and 2021, median family income for all of Elko County increased from an estimated \$75,231 in 2013 to an estimated \$95,153 in 2021, a net increase of \$19,922 or by 26.5 percent. Median family income for just the City of Carlin increased by an estimated \$15,395 or by 20.5 percent between 2013 and 2021, increased by an estimated \$16,217 or by 19.2 percent for the City of Elko, increased by an estimated \$16,110 or by 29.0 percent for the City of Wells, and increased very significantly by an estimated \$44,502 or by 108.0 percent for the City of West Wendover. For just Eureka County, median family income decreased between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from an estimated \$94,648 in 2013 to an estimated \$69,271 in 2021, a net decrease of \$25,377 or by a percentage decrease of -26.8 percent. For just the town of Eureka, median family income increased significantly from an estimated \$64,853 in 2013 to an estimated \$86,250 in 2021, a net increase of \$21,397 or by 33.0 percent.

For all of Lander County, median family income increased significantly between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated \$75,857 in 2013 to an estimated \$94,475 in 2021, a net increase of \$18,618 or by 24.5 percent. While median family income was unavailable for the town of Austin in 2021, the median family income for the town of Austin in 2013 was an estimated \$60,278 and increased for the town of Battle Mountain by an estimated \$14,190 or by 17.7

percent between 2013 and 2021. For all of White Pine County, median family income increased from an estimated \$63,982 in 2013 to an estimated \$83,529 in 2021, a net increase of \$19,547 or by 30.6 percent and, for the City of Ely, median family income increased from an estimated \$63,459 in 2013 to an estimated \$86,865 in 2021, a net increase of \$23,406 or by 36.9 percent.

Comparatively, median family income for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated \$61,359 in 2013 to an estimated \$78,456 in 2021, a net increase of \$17,097 or by 27.9 percent. Nationwide, median family income for the entire United States increased from an estimated \$64,719 in 2013 to an estimated \$85,028 in 2021, a net increase of \$20,309 or by 31.4 percent.

2.2.g Per Capita (Mean) Income

Table 2.8 presents the change in per capita income (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) for each county and community within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Table 2.8 – Per Capita (Mean) Income, Individuals (2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	\$28,358	\$36,273	\$7,915	27.9%
Carlin	\$29,339	\$30,696	\$1,357	4.6%
Elko	\$31,042	\$38,307	\$7,265	23.4%
Wells	\$23,401	\$23,809	\$408	1.7%
West Wendover	\$14,982	\$30,315	\$15,333	102.3%
Eureka County	\$28,056	\$26,443	-\$1,613	-5.7%
Eureka	\$24,700	\$23,657	-\$1,043	-4.2%
Lander County	\$29,800	\$38,632	\$8,832	29.6%
Austin	\$17,523	\$22,983	\$5,460	31.2%
Battle Mountain	\$31,153	\$39,370	\$8,217	26.4%
White Pine County	\$24,435	\$30,626	\$6,191	25.3%
Ely	\$28,226	\$34,306	\$6,080	21.5%
State of Nevada	\$26,589	\$34,621	\$8,032	30.2%
United States	\$28,155	\$37,638	\$9,483	33.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

Between 2013 and 2021, per capita income for all of Elko County increased significantly from an estimated \$28,358 in 2013 to an estimated \$36,273 in 2021, a net increase of \$7,915 or by 27.9 percent. For just the City of Carlin, per capita income increased by an estimated \$1,357 or by 4.6 percent between 2013 and 2021, increased by an estimated \$7,265 or by 23.4 percent for the City of Elko, increased slightly by an estimated \$408 or by 1.7 percent for the City of Wells, and increased dramatically by an estimated \$15,333 or by 102.3 percent for the City of West Wendover. For all of Eureka County, per capita income decreased from an estimated \$28,056 in

2013 to an estimated \$26,632 in 2021, a net decrease of \$1,613 or by 5.7 percent and, for just the town of Eureka, per capita income decreased from an estimated \$24,700 in 2013 to an estimated \$23,657 in 2021, a net decrease of \$1,043 or by -4.2 percent.

For all of Lander County, per capita income increased from an estimated \$29,800 in 2013 to an estimated \$38,632 in 2021, a net increase of \$8,832 or by 29.6 percent. For the town of Austin, the estimated per capita income increased by an estimated \$5,460 or 31.2 percent and increased for the town of Battle Mountain by an estimated \$8,217 or by 26.4 percent between 2013 and 2021. For all of White Pine County, per capita income increased from an estimated \$24,435 in 2013 to an estimated \$30,626 in 2021, a net increase of \$6,191 or by 25.3 percent and increased for the City of Ely from an estimated \$28,226 in 2013 to an estimated \$34,306 in 2021, a net increase of \$6,080 or by a percentage increase of 21.5 percent. Statewide, per capita income for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated \$26,589 in 2013 to an estimated \$34,621 in 2021, a net increase of \$8,032 or by an estimated 30.2 percent. Nationwide, per capita income for the entire United States increased from an estimated \$28,155 in 2013 to an estimated \$37,638 in 2021, a net increase of \$9,483 or by an estimated 33.7 percent.

2.2.h Percent of Total Population Living Below the Poverty Line

Table 2.9 presents the change in the percentage of total population living below the poverty line for each county and community within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2021, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line throughout all of Elko County increased from an estimated 8.8 percent in 2013 to an estimated 11.6 percent in 2021, a net increase of 2.8 percent or by a percentage increase of 31.8 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing by a net 1.5 percent or by a percentage increase of 25.4 percent, increased for the City of Elko by a net 3.6 percent or by a percentage increase of 57.1 percent, increased significantly for the City of Wells by a net 23.1 percent or by a percentage increase of 292.4 percent, and decreased for the City of West Wendover by a net 10.5 percent or by a percentage decrease of -42.3 percent. The percentage of total population living below the poverty line for all of Eureka County increased between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 13.9 percent in 2013 to an estimated 18.3 percent in 2021, a net increase of 4.4 percent or by a percentage increase of 31.7 percent, and increased by an estimated 5.0 percent or by a percentage increase of 29.6 percent for just the town of Eureka between 2013 and 2021.

For all Lander County, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line increased from an estimated 9.3 percent in 2013 to an estimated 18.3 percent in 2021, a net increase of 1.6 percent or by a percentage increase of 17.2 percent. The percentage of total population living below the poverty line for the town of Austin decreased from an estimated 15.2 percent in 2013 to an estimated 15.1 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 0.1 percent or by a percentage decrease of -0.7 percent. The percentage of total population living below the poverty line for just the town of Battle Mountain increased by an estimated 2.0 percent or by a percentage increase of 23.0 percent between 2013 and 2021. Between 2013 and 2021, the percentage of total population

living below the poverty line for all White Pine County decreased from an estimated 12.9 percent in 2013 to an estimated 11.1 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 1.8 percent or by a percentage decrease of -14.0 percent, and increased for just the City of Ely between 2013 and 2021, increasing by a net 0.3 percent or by a percentage increase of 2.7 percent.

Table 2.9 – Percent of Total Population Living Below the Poverty Line Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	8.8%	11.6%	2.8%	31.8%
Carlin	5.9%	7.4%	1.5%	25.4%
Elko	6.3%	9.9%	3.6%	57.1%
Wells	7.9%	31.0%	23.1%	292.4%
West Wendover	24.8%	14.3%	-10.5%	-42.3%
Eureka County	13.9%	18.3%	4.4%	31.7%
Eureka	16.9%	21.9%	5.0%	29.6%
Lander County	9.3%	10.9%	1.6%	17.2%
Austin	15.2%	15.1%	-0.1%	-0.7%
Battle Mountain	8.7%	10.7%	2.0%	23.0%
White Pine County	12.9%	11.1%	-1.8%	-14.0%
Ely	11.2%	11.5%	0.3%	2.7%
State of Nevada	15.0%	12.9%	-2.1%	-14.0%
United States	15.4%	12.6%	-2.8%	-18.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

Statewide, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line for the entire state of Nevada decreased from an estimated 15.0 percent in 2013 to an estimated 12.9 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 2.1 percent or by a percentage decrease of -14.0 percent. Nationwide, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line for the entire United States decreased from an estimated 15.4 percent in 2013 to an estimated 12.6 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 2.8 percent or by a percentage decrease of -18.2 percent.

2.2.i Civilian Workforce (Individuals 16 Years or Older)

Table 2.10 presents the change in the size of the civilian workforce (individuals aged 16 years or older) for each county and community within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2021, the civilian workforce for all of Elko County increased from an estimated 26,271 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 27,701 in 2021, a net increase of 1,430 total individuals or by 5.4 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the civilian workforce decreased by an estimated 161 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -12.0 percent between 2013 and 2021, increased by an estimated 1,650 total individuals or by 8.2 percent for just the City of

Elko, decreased by an estimated 239 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -23.8 percent for just the City of Wells, and increased by an estimated 451 total individuals or by 20.9 percent for just the City of West Wendover. For all of Eureka County, the civilian workforce decreased significantly from an estimated 845 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 587 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 258 total individuals or by -30.5 percent and decreased for just the town of Eureka by an estimated 224 total individuals or by a significant -36.5 percent between 2013 and 2021.

Table 2.10 – Civilian Workforce (Individuals 16 Years or Older) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	26,271	27,701	1,430	5.4%
Carlin	1,345	1,184	-161	-12.0%
Elko	20,106	21,756	1,650	8.2%
Wells	1,004	765	-239	-23.8%
West Wendover	2,163	2,614	451	20.9%
Eureka County	845	587	-258	-30.5%
Eureka	613	389	-224	-36.5%
Lander County	2,830	2,848	18	0.6%
Austin	192	125	-67	-34.9%
Battle Mountain	2,638	2,723	85	3.2%
White Pine County	4,464	3,688	-776	-17.4%
Ely	2,707	2,815	108	4.0%
State of Nevada	1,404,746	1,538,959	134,213	9.6%
United States	157,113,886	166,672,597	9,558,711	6.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

For all of Lander County, the civilian workforce increased very slightly between 2013 and 2021, increasing from an estimated 2,830 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 2,848 total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 18 total individuals or by just 0.6 percent. Between 2013 and 2021, the estimated civilian workforce for the town of Austin decreased by 67 total individuals or -34.9 percent and increased by an estimated 85 total individuals or by a percentage increase of 3.2 percent for just the town of Battle Mountain. Between 2013 and 2021, the civilian workforce for all of White Pine County decreased from an estimated 4,464 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 3,688 total individuals in 2021, a net decrease of 776 total individuals or by -17.4 percent and increased by an estimated 108 total individuals or by a percentage increase of 4.0 percent for just the town of Ely between 2013 and 2021.

The civilian workforce for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated 1.40 million total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 1.54 million total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 134,213 total individuals or by 9.6 percent between 2013 and 2021. Nationwide, the civilian workforce for the entire United States increased from an estimated 157.11 million total

individuals in 2013 to an estimated 166.67 million total individuals in 2021, a net increase of 9.56 million total individuals or by 6.1 percent.

2.2.j Civilian Unemployment Rate (Individuals 16 Years or Older)

Table 2.11 presents the change in the estimated civilian unemployment rate (individuals aged 16 years or older) for each county and community within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2021. Eureka County is highlighted.

Table 2.11 – Civilian Unemployment Rate (Individuals 16 Years or Older) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority				
Community	2013	2021	2013-2021 Actual Change	2013-2021 Percent Change
Elko County	5.7%	4.6%	-1.1%	-19.3%
Carlin	10.6%	7.3%	-3.3%	-31.1%
Elko	4.8%	5.0%	0.2%	4.2%
Wells	7.4%	1.2%	-6.2%	-83.8%
West Wendover	7.6%	0.0%	-7.6%	-100.0%
Eureka County	5.4%	0.0%	-5.4%	-100.0%
Eureka	1.6%	0.0%	-1.6%	-100.0%
Lander County	11.2%	10.8%	-0.4%	-3.6%
Austin	17.7%	0.0%	-17.7%	-100.0%
Battle Mountain	10.7%	11.3%	0.6%	5.6%
White Pine County	9.9%	3.8%	-6.1%	-61.6%
Ely	8.8%	3.2%	-5.6%	-63.6%
State of Nevada	12.5%	7.1%	-5.4%	-43.2%
United States	9.7%	5.5%	-4.2%	-43.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2021

Between 2013 and 2021, the civilian unemployment rate for all of Elko County decreased from an estimated 5.7 percent in 2013 to an estimated 4.6 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 1.1 percent or by a percentage decrease of -19.3 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the civilian unemployment rate decreased by a net 3.3 percent or by a percentage decrease of -31.1 percent between 2013 and 2021, increased by a net 0.2 percent or by a percentage increase of 4.2 percent for just the City of Elko, and decreased significantly by a net 6.2 percent or by a percentage decrease of -83.8 percent for just the City of Wells. The estimated civilian unemployment rate for the City of West Wendover, Eureka County, and the City of Eureka in 2021 was 0.0 percent, a decrease of 7.6 percent, 5.4, percent, and 1.6 percent respectively from 2013.

For all of Lander County, the civilian unemployment rate decreased from an estimated 11.2 percent in 2013 to an estimated 10.8 percent in 2021, a net decrease of just 0.4 percent or by a percentage decrease of -3.6 percent. The civilian unemployment rate for the town of Austin was an estimated 0.0 percent in 2021, down from 17.7 percent in 2013. For just the town of Battle

Mountain, the civilian unemployment rate increased from an estimated 10.7 percent in 2013 to an estimated 11.3 percent in 2021, a net increase of 0.6 percent or by a percentage increase of 5.6 percent. Between 2013 and 2021, the civilian unemployment rate for all of White Pine County declined from an estimated 9.9 percent in 2013 to an estimated 3.8 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 6.1 percent or by a percentage decrease of -61.6 percent and decreased by a net 5.6 percent or by a percentage decrease of -63.6 percent for just the City of Ely between 2013 and 2021.

For the entire state of Nevada, the civilian unemployment rate declined significantly between 2013 and 2021, declining from an estimated 12.5 percent in 2013 to an estimated 7.1 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 5.4 percent or by a percentage decrease of -43.2 percent. Nationwide, the civilian unemployment rate for the entire United States decreased significantly between 2013 and 2021, decreasing from an estimated 9.7 percent in 2013 to an estimated 5.5 percent in 2021, a net decrease of 4.2 percent or by a percentage decrease of -43.3 percent.

2.2.k Total Employment by Major Industry Sector

Table 2.12 presents the total number of individuals employed by major industry sector for Elko County, Eureka County, Lander County, White Pine County, and for the entire state of Nevada and for the entire United States in 2021. The four largest major industry sectors, in-terms of the total number of individuals employed by each individual industry sector, are highlighted for each geographic area.

For Elko County, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector in 2021, employing an estimated 6,307 total individuals. Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the second largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 4,125 total individuals; Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services was the third largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 3,573 total individuals; and Retail Trade was the fourth largest major industry sector for Elko County in 2021, employing an estimated 2,889 total individuals. For Eureka County, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector in 2021, employing an estimated 283 total individuals. Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the second largest major industry sector in Eureka County in 2021, employing an estimated 130 total individuals, and Construction was the third largest major industry sector in Eureka County in 2021, employing an estimated 44 total individuals. Retail Trade was the fourth largest industry, employing an estimated 39 individuals in Eureka County in 2021.

In 2021, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector for Lander County, employing an estimated 960 total individuals, and Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the second largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 338 total individuals. Public Administration was the third largest major industry sector in Lander County in 2021, employing an estimated 258 total individuals, and Construction was the fourth largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 244 total individuals.

Table 2.12 – Civilian Employment (Population 16 Years and Over) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority 2021						
Industry Sector	Elko County	Eureka County	Lander County	White Pine County	State of Nevada	United States
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	6,307	283	960	707	19,870	2,614,109
Construction	2,054	44	244	212	106,802	10,717,186
Manufacturing	677	16	81	73	71,225	15,786,008
Wholesale Trade	501	0	58	54	28,386	3,916,817
Retail Trade	2,889	39	113	292	164,069	17,253,259
Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities	1,261	30	206	257	93,914	8,905,978
Information	212	0	18	17	21,731	3,031,263
Finance and Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	819	0	0	56	82,334	10,483,270
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative Waste Management Services	1,430	17	161	160	165,311	18,817,926
Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance	4,125	130	338	562	239,111	36,753,702
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	3,573	5	94	584	310,206	14,346,635
Other Services, Except Public Administration	1,217	17	9	159	65,052	7,485,169
Public Administration	1,353	6	258	416	61,436	7,399,660
Total	26,418	587	2,540	3,549	1,429,447	157,510,982

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2021

For White Pine County, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector in 2021, employing an estimated 707 total individuals, and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services was the second largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 584 total individuals in 2021. Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the third largest major industry sector in White Pine County in 2021, employing an estimated 562 total individuals, and Public Administration was the fourth largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 416 total individuals in 2021.

Statewide, Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services was the single largest major industry sector in 2021 for the entire state of Nevada, employing an estimated

310,206 total individuals. Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the second largest major industry sector in 2021 for the entire state of Nevada, employing an estimated 239,111 total individuals, and Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative Waste Management Services was the third largest major industry sector in 2021 for the entire state of Nevada, employing an estimated 165,311 total individuals. Retail Trade was the fourth largest major industry sector for the entire state of Nevada in 2021, employing an estimated 164,069 total individuals.

For the entire United States, Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the single largest major industry sector in 2021, employing an estimated 36.75 million total individuals. Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative Waste Management Services was the second largest major industry sector for the entire United States in 2021, employing an estimated 18.81 million total individuals, and Retail Trade was the third largest major industry sector for the entire United States in 2021, employing an estimated 17.25 million total individuals. Manufacturing was the fourth largest major industry sector in 2021 for the entire United States, employing an estimated 15.79 million total individuals.

2.3 An Updated Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

Participants of the October 11, 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy annual update and evaluation workshop chose to maintain the 2021 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis for Eureka County with minor adjustments. The two respondents of the online Survey Monkey questionnaire included several other additions for each category.

The results of this updated SWOT analysis are presented in this sub-section. Strengths are defined as characteristics of Eureka County that give the community an economic development advantage over others and weaknesses are defined as characteristics of the community that place it at an economic development competitive disadvantage relative to other communities both within and outside the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region. Opportunities are elements within the external environment that Eureka County could potentially take advantage of, and threats are elements within the external environment that may derail the economic development efforts of the community over the next five years.

2.3.a Strengths

Workshop participants and survey respondents largely agreed with the original list of strengths captured during the initial 2020 planning session with a just a few additions. Figure 2.1 presents a word cloud of the various economic development strengths of Eureka County as identified by feedback from participants of the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy workshop and workshop participants and survey respondents of the 2022 annual update of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County.

natural resource extraction industry sector, agricultural industry sector, and outdoor recreation and tourism industry sector throughout the county's history.

Eureka County is geographically situated within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region and is only one of two counties (along with Lander County) within the region with direct access to both U.S. Interstate 80 (in the northern part of Eureka County) and U.S. Highway 50 (in the southern part of Eureka County). Eureka County also has direct access to a major railroad network (in the northern part of Eureka County) and continued investment and improvement into the Eureka Airport provides Eureka County strong access to regional, statewide, and national markets. Firms operating in the mining and natural resources extraction industry sector and farms and ranches operating in the agricultural industry sector have utilized Eureka County's central location within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region and these transportation infrastructure assets to gain access to the region's civilian workforce pool, gain access to national and international markets, and ultimately grow their own operations. Access to U.S. Interstate 80 and U.S. Highway 50, connected by Nevada Highway 278, has also allowed tourists and visitors to access the many outdoor recreational activities located throughout the county.

Respondents to the 2022 update noted the value of the newly hired Tourism Director and Tourist Information Center and added that tours in the county have increased room stays at the Gold Country Inn by 50 percent. Many new businesses have opened since 2020 including the Afterlife Antiques, Miss Dana's Visit Eureka Nevada Shoppe, the Eureka Depot, Eureka Tattoo Shop, Gina's Mobile Food Truck, Clementine's Restaurant, and Clark Small Engine Repair. 2022 respondents also emphasized the ease of doing business including that there are no local permit requirements and that there is much private land available, and the high quality of life for communities in Eureka County.

2.3.b Weaknesses

Again, workshop participants and survey respondents largely agreed with the original list of weaknesses captured during the initial 2020 planning session with just a few additions. Figure 2.2 presents a word cloud of the various economic development weaknesses of Eureka County as identified by feedback from participants of the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy workshop and workshop participants and survey respondents of the 2022 annual update of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County.

The primary economic development weakness in Eureka County, as identified by workshop participants, is a general 'lack of' various amenities and key assets needed to support expanded economic development efforts that are consistent with the community's existing cultural identity and values. This general 'lack of' ranged from critical services, such as expanded hospital and urgent care healthcare services and critical services directed to at-risk populations such as the elderly, to various amenities, such as high-speed Internet, reliable cellular and broadband service, and commercial retail activities and options. Workshop participants also noted that Eureka County's declining population, while sufficient to support the commercial and industrial activities already operating throughout the county, has left Eureka County dependent upon the workforce living in neighboring counties (such as Humboldt County to the northwest and Elko

County to the northeast). A lack of dedicated marketing for tourism, a lack of additional trade skill training programs, and a lack of available private land were also identified as other critical economic development weaknesses in Eureka County.

**Figure 2.2 – Economic Development Weaknesses
Eureka County**



Respondents to the 2022 update noted the limitations met by the limited labor pool and the lack of housing and motel/hotel availability. These weaknesses exacerbate one another as the declining population results in a smaller resident workforce. Due to the severe shortage or multi- and single-family housing, the mining workforce is often housed in motels and hotels, leaving limited vacancy for visitors. Without expanded tourist accommodations, communities are unable to scale events.

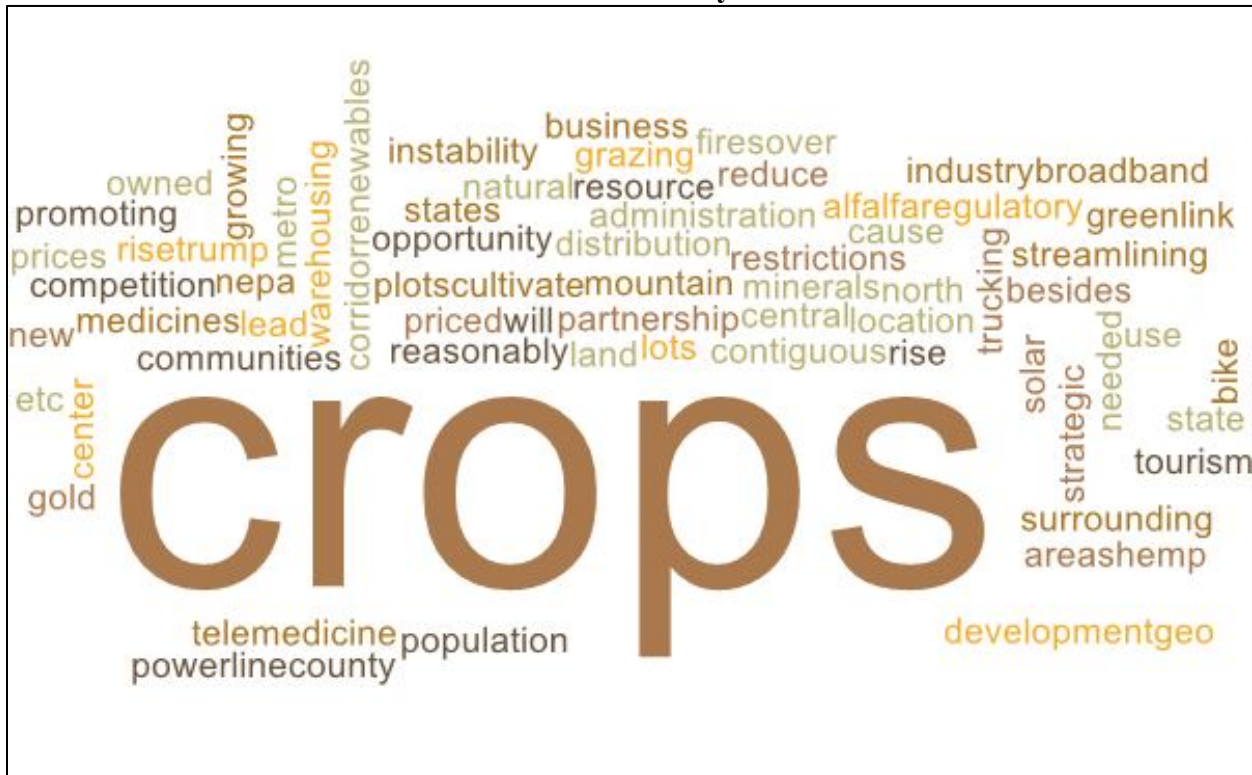
Despite Eureka County’s central geographic location within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region and the existence of several major transportation infrastructure assets, workshop participants did note that county itself is ‘land locked’ between various other counties within the region. As a result of this, Eureka County’s own economic development efforts have, at times, been stymied by the efforts of neighboring counties and neighboring regions. Further development of critical transportation infrastructure assets, notably access to the major railroad network located in the northern portion of Eureka County and the Eureka Airport located in the southern portion of Eureka County were identified by workshop participants as critical ‘next steps’ in Eureka County’s own economic development efforts to grow overall access to critical national and international markets. Workshop participants suggested that these

efforts to improve critical transportation assets be done in partnership with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority and appropriate state agencies

2.3.c Opportunities

Survey respondents again largely agreed with the original list of opportunities captured during the initial 2020 planning session with a just a few additions and workshop participants did not include any additions. Figure 2.3 presents a word cloud of the various economic development opportunities of Eureka County as identified by feedback from participants of the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy workshop and survey respondents of the 2022 annual update of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County.

**Figure 2.3 – Economic Development Opportunities
Eureka County**



Specific areas of possible future focused development, as identified by workshop participants, included wide-spread development of new renewable energy generation within the county for export to larger markets, increased outdoor recreation activities and tourism in partnership with other communities located throughout the region, recruitment of distribution centers and new trucking and warehousing opportunities (especially for the northern part of Eureka County), the further development of rare Earth metals to support battery production located in the western part of Nevada, and improved telemedicine and business development services through increased broadband interconnectivity. Specifically, 2022 contributors cited the opportunities presented by the Greenlink North project, a renewable energy and electrical infrastructure that aims to make

Nevada a leader in the clean energy economy. Greenlink North will be a 525 kV line spanning approximately 235 miles from Ely to Yerington, traversing Eureka County across Highway 50.

In addition to these specific areas of possible future focused development, workshop participants noted the rise of new potential opportunities for the county's existing agricultural industry sector. Most notably, workshop participants noted new opportunities in the production, processing and use of hemp and marijuana that could be grown in Eureka County as a less water intensive and less costly alternative to the traditional alfalfa and other hay crops that are currently grown in Eureka County. It was also noted that the county could potentially benefit from capturing both upstream and downstream elements of the existing agricultural industry sector's supply chain and value chain. Upstream, workshop participants noted that equipment and supply producers and manufacturers that already serve existing farmers and ranchers could be more aggressively recruited to establish operations within the county and, downstream, the county could more aggressively invest in additional value-added production for both crops and livestock already produced by Eureka County farms and ranches. Contributors also noted the opportunities provided by being located centrally along the Interstate 80 corridor. In particular, it was noted this area could be developed as a prime location for the trucking and warehousing industries. Contributors also noted the potential to partner with other communities to expand eco-tourism such as a mountain biking competition.

2.3.d Threats

Survey respondents also largely agreed with the original list of threats captured during the 2020 planning session with just a few additions and workshop participants did not include any additions. Figure 2.4 presents a word cloud of the various economic development Threats of Eureka County as identified by feedback from participants of the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy workshop and survey respondents of the 2022 annual update of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County.

Many of the individual threats, as identified by workshop participants, to Eureka County's future economic development efforts were tied to potentially unfavorable and unpredictable changes in national and global commodities. Unanticipated and significant declines in the prices of precious metals and industrial minerals and various agricultural products and commodities could significantly reduce business activity in the county's two primary industry sectors, the mining and natural resource extraction industry sector and the agricultural industry sector. Tied to a potential significant decline in national and international commodity prices is the potential sudden and significant increase in water and energy prices. Both water and energy are key inputs into production for firms operating within the county's two primary industry sectors, the mining and natural resource extraction industry sector and the agricultural industry sector. Due to the county's heavy dependence on these industry sectors, sudden and unpredictable increases in the prices of water and energy may negatively impact the county's overall economic base.

Workshop participants also noted a growing level of uncertainty regarding regulatory standards developed and imposed by the state government of Nevada. A considerable amount of concern regarding possible changes in how the net proceeds of minerals tax is calculated and how these

3.0 Evaluation of the Vision, Goals, and Objectives

This section presents a summary of the evaluation of the existing strategic economic development vision and goals for Eureka County completed by workshop participants who participated in the October 11, 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy annual update and evaluation workshop or responded to the 2022 online survey distributed via Survey Monkey. This section also presents a general overview of the reprioritized goals and objectives for Eureka County for the coming year of implementation.

3.1 Evaluation of the Strategic Economic Development Vision

The current strategic economic development vision for Eureka County, developed as part of the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 2020 through 2025, is:

Eureka County will diversify, innovate, and grow the county's economy through continued diversification, innovation and growth by investing in key industry sectors, including mining, agriculture, natural resources and small business development and expansion.

Eureka County values our rich rural heritage and lifestyle and future economic development diversification, innovation, and growth will be pursued only if it is consistent with the rich rural heritage and lifestyle that we value.

As part of the evaluation of this current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, workshop participants of the October 11, 2022 annual update and evaluation workshop did not modify the current strategic economic development vision statement for Eureka county.

Workshop participants further agreed that Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority have made progress in achieving key elements of the current strategic economic development vision. Specifically, workshop participants noted that the vision's focus on further diversification of Eureka County's economic base has become increasingly important, especially for specific services such as healthcare and childcare. Workshop participants further noted that continued economic development and diversification efforts should expand on the county's existing primary industry and occupation sectors, specifically the existing agricultural and mining and natural resource extraction sectors. Additional 'value added' production in these sectors will help close critical gaps in the value networks and supply chains of both industry sectors while also helping to create new higher wage employment opportunities in a variety of directly and indirectly related sectors.

Workshop participants generally agreed that overall progress has been mixed in achieving specific elements of the existing strategic economic development vision statement for Eureka

County. Eureka County, both by itself and in partnership with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority and other regional community and economic development partners, has made considerable progress in supporting new small business and start-ups. In the past year, several businesses have opened or expanded in Eureka County. This success has helped fill critical gaps in the county's commercial retail base while also supporting additional outdoor tourism and recreation development efforts.

Participants noted that the development of additional diverse housing remains a primary challenge and a primary obstacle to additional community and economic growth. Over the next year and for the remainder of the existing five-year strategic planning horizon, addressing the local and regional housing shortage will be a top priority for Eureka County and for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority. Contributors also noted the need for beautification in downtown Eureka including signage, façade renewal, historical markers, and public art. There is also a desire for a Folklife Center to display historic, immigrant, mining, ranching, farming, and other exhibits, located at the Rodeo grounds, in partnership with the County.

Concerning how the economic development vision for Eureka County has changed over the past year, the focus to address the immediate and longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic have begun to wane. While the repercussions and resulting hardships of the pandemic have been acutely felt by many in the community, particularly the community's senior population, much of the community has rapidly recovered. Continued barriers and challenges are characterized more by the need to strengthen foundational infrastructure, including healthcare infrastructure, and regional competitiveness rather than the acute response to the health and resulting economic crisis.

3.2 Evaluation of the Strategic Economic Development Goals

In evaluating the current strategic economic development goals, workshop participants of the October 11, 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy annual update and evaluation workshop for Eureka County or respondents to the online survey were asked to evaluate the progress that has been made in achieving each of the original strategic economic development goals developed as part of this current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This sub-section presents a general overview of the evaluation of Eureka County's current strategic economic development goals and objectives.

3.2.a Evaluation of the Current Strategic Goals and Objectives

As part of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County for the 2020 through 2025 period, the 12 initial strategic economic development goals were modified during the 2021 workshop to the following:

Priority Area No. 1: Continue to pursue and complete community development related programs and projects designed to address emerging concerns ranging from infrastructure to housing to expanded primary and more advanced healthcare services.

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- **Previous Goal No. 1:** Within five years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support the aging population of the county.
 - **Previous Goal No. 5:** Light industry using a railhead at Beowawe to bring supplies in and products out.
 - **Previous Goal No. 11:** Collaborate with developers to build ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019.

Priority Area No. 2: Continue to address water supply concerns and continue to work with existing private sector firms in primary industry sectors (agriculture and mining and natural resource extraction) in order to reduce water consumption in existing operations.

- **Previous Goal No. 12:** Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system.

Priority Area No. 3: Promote and enhance Eureka County's tourism and outdoor recreation sector through new marketing efforts and related infrastructure, housing, new business creation and attraction strategies, and efforts to retain and expand existing businesses that directly support Eureka County's tourism and outdoor recreation sector.

- **Previous Goal No. 2:** Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020.
- **Previous Goal No. 3:** Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources.
- **Previous Goal No. 7:** Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021.
- **Previous Goal No. 8:** Increase events in Eureka County by 300 percent by December 31, 2020.

Priority Area No. 4: Support new business creation and attraction strategies and existing business retention efforts designed to support the continued growth and diversification of existing primary industry sectors (agriculture, mining and natural resource extraction, and tourism and outdoor recreation) through the promotion of existing and emerging small business and entrepreneurial-based funding and technical assistance support services and through improved marketing efforts.

- **Previous Goal No. 4:** Recruit one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024.
- **Previous Goal No. 6:** Establish small business loan (grant) program that offers two to three loans annually by December 2021.

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- **Previous Goal No. 9:** Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20,000 CAPEX, one to three jobs each) in Eureka County by December 2024.
 - **Previous Goal No. 10:** Mining diversification from gold – vanadium and Moly prospects.

As part of the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update and evaluation workshop held on October 11, 2022, workshop participants were asked to evaluate each individual goal by answering three separate questions, including: (1) has progress been made in achieving this goal?, (2) how relevant is the goal moving forward?, and (3) what can be done to make additional progress moving forward? The resulting evaluation of each individual goal was then used to reprioritize the 12 existing strategic economic development goals for the coming year.

Regarding **Goal No. 1:** *Within 5 years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support the aging population of the county*, workshop participants noted Eureka County has made some progress in achieving this goal over the past year. Eureka welcomed the Economy Drug pharmacy to the community providing pharmaceutical services and Eureka also welcomed the addition of an eye doctor to the community in 2022. In the past year, the William Bee Ririe Clinic extended its hours of operation to provide expanded non-emergency services to the county. Finally, Genesis home healthcare, has been expanded to provide more services and hospice care for the elderly citizens of Eureka.

For **Goal No. 5:** *Light industry using a railhead at Beowawe to bring supplies in and products out*, workshop participants and survey respondents noted that Eureka County has made some progress in achieving this goal by continuing to participate in the Nevada rail coalition to evaluate rail opportunities in the area. Eureka County has collaborated with private entities to promote and encourage rail development while determining potential rail use for various industries. Workshop Participants modified the language of this goal to the following: *Recruit light industry through the development of a fully functional rail siding/spur and/or Industrial Rail Park within Eureka County to accommodate the import of supplies and the export of products*. This update expands the focus of activities to include any rail site within Eureka County and include the potential for an industrial rail park.

Workshop participants modified the language of **Goal No. 11:** *Collaborate with developers to build ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019*, to include multi-family options: *Collaborate with developers to build new multi-family housing options (apartments, duplexes, 4-plexes, etc.) and no less than ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019*. Multiple conversations have taken place with developers with no direct impact to this goal, but a few homes have been built by private developers since 2019.

Some progress has been made on **Goal No. 12:** *Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system*. A Diamond Valley groundwater management plan was initiated and upheld by the Nevada Supreme Court which provided certainty and structure for water users in Diamond Valley. Eureka County is working toward an initiative to transport water from outside of the agricultural areas into their basin. Thousands of

dollars have been spent to explore wells and file water rights applications. Meetings continue with the State Water Engineer to progress initiatives and enhance water efficiency within Eureka County.

Workshop participants and survey respondents agreed that hiring the new Tourism Director in Eureka County has somewhat impacted all four goals under Priority Area No. 3. Progress has been made on **Goal No. 2: Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020.** Occupancy rates are well over 80 percent, but this is primarily due to utilization by the mining workforce. The Tourism Director has contributed to elevated occupancy rates but the overall capacity is limited because of workforce lodging demands. 52 miles of trails have been identified for expanded recreation opportunities for mountain bike and Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) tourists. Stone Church Lodge, Heritage House, and Colonnade are some of the new Air BNB options that have opened since 2020 to take advantage of the influx of recreation, historical, and paranormal tourism activity. All new establishments operate at full occupancy.

Progress has been made toward **Goal No. 3: Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources.** Eureka's new Tourism Director has been actively identifying and pursuing tourism grants to highlight attractions in and around Eureka. Further, she continues to pursue grants that will enhance the downtown and main street experience for local citizens as well as tourists and travelers. Eureka Tourism is collaborating with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Eureka Business Network (EBN), local mines, and other local civic organizations to enhance infrastructure within the historic downtown district.

Eureka's new Tourism Director has been tracking visitor numbers since her arrival in 2020 and she has confirmed there has been much more than a 50 percent increase in tourism since her arrival. With that, workshop participants noted **Goal No. 7: Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021** is complete.

However, workshop participants recommended discarding **Goal No. 8: Increase events in Eureka County by 300 percent by December 31, 2020.** While there has been an increase in the number of events in Eureka County including the Gold Rush Games, Paracon, and the Halloween Ball, attendance is limited due to lack of lodging. Participants recommended resources be focused elsewhere.

For **Existing Goal No. 4: Recruit one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024,** workshop participants and survey respondents agreed some progress has been made. The Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) has responded to four requests for information on behalf of Eureka County. Unfortunately, no response was received and no tangible results have been reported. NNRDA will continue to promote Eureka County and work to recruit new business and industry to the region. Participants also noted The Diamond Valley groundwater management plan will create opportunities for alternative agriculture (indoor, vertical, etc.) to access water without securing water rights in the area utilizing a water "bank."

With the creation of the Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) and the I-80 loan program, **Existing Goal No. 6: Establish small business loan (grant) program that offers two to**

three loans annually by December 2021 is longer necessary. Workshop participants agreed that these two programs provide the necessary capital needed for local small business and have decided to remove this goal.

Eureka County has far exceeded targets for **Goal No. 9: Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20K CAPEX, 1-3 jobs each) in Eureka county by December 2024.** Workshop participants noted the arrival of several new businesses and expansions of existing business since 2020 including, but not limited to, Economy Drug (2020), Afterlife Antiques & Oddities (2022), Eureka Depot (2022), Clementines Restaurant (2022), Eureka Tattoo (2021), Ms. Dana's (2020), Jackson House Salon (2022), Stone Church Lodge (2021), Heritage House (2022), Colonnade (2021), Eureka Gold Country Inn Expansion (9 rooms), EZ Stop Gas Station (2022), Chevron Upgrades (2022), and multiple other remodels, expansions, and enhancements.

Regarding **Existing Goal No. 10: Mining diversification from gold - to vanadium and Moly prospects**, workshop participants noted some progress has been made. Silver Elephant Mining has realized their net operating income in Fall of 2022 with hopes of a registration of deeds in early 2023. Eureka County continues to be supportive of mining and work to eliminate obstacles that could delay or inhibit development.

3.2.b Reprioritizing the Existing Strategic Economic Development Goals for the Coming Year

Workshop participants and survey respondents were asked to reprioritize each of the 12 existing strategic economic development goals for the coming year as Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority each continue to implement elements of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The following list outlines the results of this effort including the renumbering of goals under each priority area:

- **Priority Area No. 1:** Continue to pursue and complete community development related programs and projects designed to address emerging concerns ranging from infrastructure to housing to expanded primary and more advanced healthcare services.
 - **Priority Goal No. 1.1:** Existing Goal No. 1, Within five years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support the aging population of the county.
 - **Priority Goal No. 1.2:** Modified Existing Goal No. 5, Recruit light industry through the development of a fully functional rail siding/spur and/or Industrial Rail Park within Eureka County to accommodate the import of supplies and the export of products.
 - **Priority Goal No. 1.3:** Modified Existing Goal No. 11, Collaborate with developers to build new multi-family housing options (apartments, duplex, 4-plex, etc.) and no less than ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019.

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- **Priority Area No. 2:** Continue to address water supply concerns and continue to work with existing private sector firms in primary industry sectors (agriculture and mining and natural resource extraction) in order to reduce water consumption in existing operations.
 - **Priority Goal No. 2.1:** Existing Goal No. 12, Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system.
 - **Priority Area No. 3:** Promote and enhance Eureka County’s tourism and outdoor recreation sector through new marketing efforts and related infrastructure, housing, new business creation and attraction strategies, and efforts to retain and expand existing businesses that directly support Eureka County’s tourism and outdoor recreation sector.
 - **Priority Goal No. 3.1:** Existing Goal No. 2, Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020.
 - **Priority Goal No. 3.2:** Existing Goal No. 3, Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources.
 - **Priority Goal No. 3.3:** Promote and encourage the increase of short-term rental opportunities (Air BnB / Vrbo) within Eureka County to allow for more tourism lodging capacity.

Workshop participants made adjustments to the goals under Priority Area No. 3. Given the factor most limiting tourism and event attendance is hotel occupancy, participants added a goal to specifically address this issue.

- **Priority Area No. 4:** Support new business creation and attraction strategies and existing business retention efforts designed to support the continued growth and diversification of existing primary industry sectors (agriculture, mining and natural resource extraction, and tourism and outdoor recreation) through the promotion of existing and emerging small business and entrepreneurial-based funding and technical assistance support services and through improved marketing efforts.
 - **Priority Goal No. 4.1:** Existing Goal No. 4, Recruit one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024.
 - **Priority Goal No. 4.2:** Existing Goal No. 10, Mining diversification from gold – vanadium and Moly prospects
- **Completed:** Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021.
- **Completed:** Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20,000 CAPEX, one to three jobs each) in Eureka County by December 2024.

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- ***Discarded:*** Increase events in Eureka County by 300 percent by December 31, 2020.
 - ***Discarded:*** Establish small business loan (grant) program that offers two to three loans annually by December 2021.

For the coming 2022 through 2023 year of continued implementation of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County, workshop participants and survey respondents have decided to continue to focus on community development elements including downtown revitalization, historical building preservation, and public artwork. Finally, there is energy around projects working with the railroad in northern Eureka County. Some are hoping to see the development of a Folklife Center to display historic, immigrant mining, ranching, and/or farming culture. The community will also need to prepare transitions for agricultural land in southern Diamond Valley that will be losing irrigation water to Agrivoltaics in order to connect to Greenlink North.