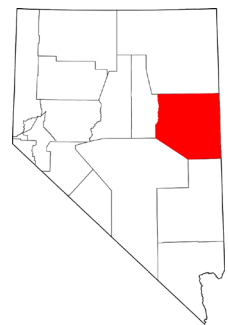


**THE 2022 ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR WHITE PINE
COUNTY, NEVADA, 2020 THROUGH 2025**



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and

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White Pine County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Economic Development Mission

White Pine County is creating a community with a diverse economy and elevated quality of life for our citizens and visitors through focused collaboration and cooperation.

Economic Development Vision

As the premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts, White Pine County attracts all age groups. Our community is proud of our state-of-the-art infrastructure, quality housing at all price points and is home to the number one school district in the State. Welcome Home!

White Pine County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Reprioritized Strategic Economic Development Goals for 2022 through 2023

Existing Goal No. 1: Develop a community plan to address housing needs to provide housing, address blight, and assess needs.

Existing Goal No. 2: Address outdated infrastructure and provide infrastructure that can be available for development including broadband, sewer, water, paving, buildings and others.

Existing Goal No. 3: Working with the Main Street America Program revitalize the Ely downtown area.

Existing Goal No. 4: Develop a comprehensive education plan that includes identifying employment gaps, working with other agencies to attract staff, develop a plan to increase and strengthen trade skills, partner with trade colleges, develop a parent education program, update the K-12 school buildings, address unused school facilities.

Existing Goal No. 5: Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation/tourism plan to expand outdoor recreation accessibility and economic impact by developing outdoor businesses, services and events.

Existing Goal No. 6: Develop a workforce plan to include partnerships with local industry, colleges and local high schools as well as trades recruitment or a trades educational program specific to housing needs.

Existing Goal No. 7: Develop a countywide transportation plan.

White Pine County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Reprioritized Strategic Economic Development Goals for 2022 through 2023

Existing Goal No. 8: Create a comprehensive broadband plan for White Pine County.

Existing Goal No. 9: Maintain and expand efforts related to securing water in White Pine County.

Existing Goal No. 10: Reduce energy costs by making a natural gas option available.

Existing Goal No. 11: Develop an expansion plan for the White Pine County Airport.

Completed: Work with economic development agencies to identify and recruit new businesses.

Completed: Enhance utilization of our already successful partnerships with federal and state agencies.

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 White Pine 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 White Pine County and for the United States, as well as per capita income for both White Pine 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

White Pine 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 White Pine County was an estimated 3.2 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 White Pine County was an estimated **2.2 percent greater than the national estimated average**. Based upon this estimate, White Pine 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 White Pine County and United States 2020 and 2021			
	2020	2021	2020 and 2021 Average
Civilian Unemployment Rate			
White Pine County	2.5%	3.8%	3.2%
Difference between White Pine County and National Estimates	-2.9%	-1.7%	-2.2%
United States National	5.4%	5.5%	5.4%
Per Capita Income			
White Pine County	\$27,322	\$30,626	\$28,974
Percentage of U.S. National Estimate	77.2%	81.4%	79.4%
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 White Pine County was an estimated \$28,974. 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 White Pine County was an estimated **79.4 percent of the national average**. Based upon this estimate, White Pine 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 White Pine 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, 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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. White Pine 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

Three of the four survey respondents completed an updated Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis for White Pine County via the online Survey Monkey form. The results of this SWOT analysis are presented in this sub-section. Strengths are defined as characteristics of White Pine County that gives 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 White Pine 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

Figure 2.1 presents a word cloud of the various economic development strengths of White Pine County as identified by feedback from workshop participants and survey respondents of the 2022 annual update of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for White Pine County.

Many of the individual economic development strengths for White Pine County and for several of the individual communities located throughout the county identified by workshop participants and survey respondents focused on the county's many natural resources and outdoor and recreation assets. Combined, these natural resources and outdoor and recreation assets have helped support continued growth of several key industry and occupation sectors including the

Workshop participants and survey respondents further highlighted the traditional and rich historical identity and tradition of White Pine County and of the county's individual communities as a major economic development strength. Despite increased tourism and visitor counts, White Pine County and its various individual communities continue to retain a historically more 'rural' and 'western' identity. People living throughout White Pine County typically work together to address issues of common concern, help each other in times of personal or community crisis, and are generally friendly towards and welcoming of others. White Pine County, the City of Ely, and its various strategic partners have continued to preserve and even take advantage of this historical community culture and identity by preserving and promoting adaptive reuse of historical structures and sites either as a part of or independent of the county's and city's existing Mainstreet program.

Continued improvements to major infrastructure and community assets, including U.S. Highway 50 and U.S. Highway 93 and other major arterial and connector state and federal roadways, improvements to other transportation assets including existing railroad infrastructure, improved broadband and telecommunication infrastructure, improved municipal sewer and water services, improvements to the Ely Airport, and even improvements to local area parks, have each been a part of the county's and city's efforts to preserve and improve the community's existing quality of life and unique cultural identity and history. Several survey respondents also noted the benefits of access to Great Basin College Center in Ely. The center features nine classrooms, including one science lab, one computer lab and one nursing simulation lab. Live classes and classes conducted in synchrony with other Great Basin College locations via Interactive Video (IAV) are both available through the center. Students in the Ely area may also take online classes via Web Campus using lab computers at the center or an Internet-connected computer at home. Great Basin College Ely offers academic advisement, and tutoring in writing and math, as well as, placement and proctored testing to enrolled students.

2.3.b Weaknesses

Figure 2.2 presents a word cloud of the various economic development weaknesses of White Pine County as identified by feedback from workshop participants and survey respondents of the 2022 annual update of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for White Pine County.

Although workshop participants highlighted several of the significant investments that have already been made in the county's existing infrastructure, community assets, and educational system as a primary economic development strength, workshop participants did note that remaining deficiencies in critical infrastructure and community assets are still critical economic development weaknesses for White Pine County, for the City of Ely, and for several individual communities located within the county. Additional transportation infrastructure and improvements, namely the need for significantly improved commercial air service into and out of the Ely Airport, improved municipal and sewer water service especially outside the core part of the City of Ely, increased broadband and telecommunication infrastructure throughout the entire county, and additional public educational infrastructure remain key economic development weaknesses that may be inhibiting additional community and economic growth and

Workshop participants further noted that White Pine County’s strategic geographic location within northeastern Nevada and throughout the western and intermountain western United States, coupled with the development of new and emerging industry and occupation sectors, is a major economic development opportunity for the county and for the county’s various individual communities. Targeted investment in additional transportation infrastructure, including needed improvements to the Ely Airport and to major state and federal highways and arterial connectors, combined with targeted development of commercial and industrial land, could lead to new business creation and attraction success in a number of new and emerging industry and occupation sectors including advanced manufacturing, warehousing and logistics, and battery manufacturing and renewable energy production and transmission.

These specific areas of focus present White Pine County with a unique opportunity to spearhead the efforts of the northeastern Nevada region to fill critical ‘gaps’ in existing value and supply chains in existing key industry and occupation sectors while simultaneously supporting new development and growth in diversified industry and occupation sectors. Increased collaboration with local and regional economic development partners in the public sector, private sector, and even the non-profit sector will be needed to identify and secure the funding necessary to support these efforts and to develop and complete the projects and programs needed to increase overall community and economic development capacity. Finally, some survey respondents noted the opportunity to repurpose existing infrastructure into new housing or retail, maintaining the historical appeal of the region while also breathing new life and possibility.

2.3.d Threats

Figure 2.4 presents a word cloud of the various economic development threats of White Pine County as identified by feedback from survey respondents of the 2022 annual update of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for White Pine County.

Many of the specific economic development threats identified by workshop participants for the coming year and for the remainder of the current five-year strategic economic development planning horizon for White Pine County were similar to specific threats identified for most of the northeastern Nevada region. The most frequently noted threats relate to the depletion of natural resources. Survey respondents and workshop participants were concerned about threats related to water exportation and overuse, diminishing dark skies, declining price for critical precious metals such as copper, and even wild horse overpopulation. Given that the economy is nearly entirely dependent on these resources, careful consideration for conservation and preservation must take place before the threats become acute and critical.

While conservation of natural resources is essential, participants also noted increased political and regulatory threats emerging from the Nevada state government and state legislature to future natural disasters to a growing sense of economic uncertainty at the state, national, and even international level. From a political and regulatory perspective, workshop participants noted that as the balance of political power in the state of Nevada continues to shift to the state’s more urban and metropolitan population centers, new regulatory and taxation/fiscal policies are being considered, policies that could directly threaten the short-term and long-term viability and sustainability of existing key industry and occupations sectors in White Pine County and

tourism sector, two sectors that are primary economic drivers and sources of employment for White Pine County and for several of White Pine County's individual communities.

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 White Pine County completed by workshop participants who participated in the October 13, 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 White Pine County for the coming year of implementation.

3.1 Evaluation of the Strategic Economic Development Vision

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

As the premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts, White Pine County attracts all age groups. Our community is proud of our state-of-the-art infrastructure, quality housing at all price points and is home to the number one school district in the State. Welcome Home!

As part of the evaluation of this current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, workshop participants who participated in the October 13, 2022 annual update and evaluation workshop were asked to evaluate the current strategic economic development vision. Workshop participants agreed that the current strategic economic development vision statement for White Pine County is still relevant.

Since the adoption of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, White Pine County, the City of Ely, and its various community and regional strategic partners have focused on making White Pine County a national and even international premier outdoor recreation and tourism destination for various outdoor enthusiasts. Continued promotion and marketing of White Pine County’s various outdoor recreation and activity assets and resources combined with improved access to and capacity of these assets have helped drive further growth of the county’s outdoor recreation and tourism sector. White Pine County and its various strategic partners have also pursued a number of related public sector and private sector new business creation and attraction efforts and existing business retention and expansion strategies designed to provide existing residents and future tourists and visitors with the commercial retail goods and services needed to support continued growth of the area’s outdoor recreation and tourism sector. Further development of accommodations and infrastructure will enhance the impact of this progress.

Beyond establishing White Pine County as a national and international premier destination for outdoor recreation visitors, tourists, and enthusiasts, White Pine County, the City of Ely, and its various strategic partners continue to pursue the development and completion of a wide variety of critical infrastructure and community asset improvement projects, the further revitalization and sustainable growth of the county's existing housing stock, and continued improvement of the community's public education system. Workshop participants agreed that each one of these interdependent efforts are essential parts of the county's efforts to preserve and enhance the quality of life for current and future residents and to create an environment of investment and growth for existing and future businesses. Improved infrastructure, improved housing, and continual improvement to the area's public education system will broaden the overall attractiveness of White Pine County and its various local communities while preserving and improving upon the county's and each individual community's existing historical culture and community identity.

Moving forward, as White Pine County, the City of Ely, the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, and various key strategic economic development partners and stakeholders continue to implement elements of the existing five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in the coming year and for the remainder of the existing five-year strategic planning horizon, workshop participants agreed that a renewed focus on housing and education is needed. A renewed focus on improving the county's existing housing stock through targeted revitalization and reasonable and sustainable new housing development and a renewed focus on identifying and completing new major investments in the county's public education system will aid the efforts to broaden White Pine County's appeal to a wider and younger population demographic. Workshop participants further agreed that additional critical infrastructure projects and assets will need to be developed and completed in order to support this renewed focus on improvement of the county's existing housing stock and existing public education system.

Concerning how the economic development vision for White Pine 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 who participated in the October 13, 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy annual update and evaluation workshop for White Pine County or responded 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 White Pine 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 the City of Carlin for the 2020 through 2025 period, thirteen separate strategic economic development goals were approved during the 2021 annual update, including:

- **Previous Goal No. 1:** Develop a community plan to address housing needs to provide housing, address blight, assess needs, as well as trades recruitment or a trades educational program specific to housing needs.
- **Previous Goal No. 2:** Address outdated infrastructure and provide infrastructure that can be available for development including broadband, sewer, water, paving, buildings and others.
- **Previous Goal No. 3:** Working with the Main Street America Program revitalize the Ely downtown area.
- **Previous Goal No. 4:** Develop a comprehensive education plan for all County schools.
- **Previous Goal No. 5:** Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation/tourism plan to expand outdoor recreation accessibility and economic impact by developing outdoor businesses, services and events.
- **Previous Goal No. 6:** Develop a workforce plan to include partnerships with local industry, colleges and local high schools.
- **Previous Goal No. 7:** Develop a countywide transportation plan.
- **Previous Goal No. 8:** Create a comprehensive broadband plan for White Pine County.
- **Previous Goal No. 9:** Work with economic development agencies to identify and recruit new businesses.
- **Previous Goal No. 10:** Maintain and expand efforts related to securing water in White Pine County.
- **Previous Goal No. 11:** Enhance utilization of our already successful partnerships with federal and state agencies.
- **Previous Goal No. 12:** Reduce energy costs by making a natural gas option available.
- **Previous Goal No. 13:** Develop an expansion plan for the White Pine County Airport.

As part of the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update and evaluation workshop held on October 13, 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 eight existing strategic economic development goals for the coming year.

Regarding **Goal No. 1:** *Develop a community plan to address housing needs to provide housing, address blight, assess needs, as well as trades recruitment or a trades educational program specific to housing needs*, multiple developers and builders including Housing Partners International (HPI), Koinonia, Capital Market Resources, and others, have visited Ely and White Pine County in an effort to evaluate the area and determine feasibility and marketability for various types of housing units. Thus far, HPI is the only company that has committed to building in the area, beginning with a multi-family option initially followed by single family options. The City of Ely has been proactively working to eliminate slum and blight within the city limits utilizing Community Development Block Grants to meet objectives. Workshop participants recommended removing language related to trade education and recruitment to reflect the following: *Develop a community plan to address housing needs to provide housing, address blight, and assess needs.*

For **Goal No. 2:** *Address outdated infrastructure and provide infrastructure that can be available for development including broadband, sewer, water, paving, buildings and others* White Pine County has successfully applied for and received funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to assist in the development, enhancement, and remediation of the Murry Street Sewer and Water Improvement Project, Parker Street Sewer Line, McGill Sewer Pond, WP County Slag Ditch, Baker GID Subdivision. These projects are in various phases of completion. White Pine County has also begun collaboration with the Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Information, and Technology (OSIT) to deliver fiber optic lines to all schools within the district and to the County Courthouse. Additionally, White Pine County has committed \$1M to match future broadband grants. White Pine County has also utilized Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) funding to proceed with construction of the fairgrounds indoor event center, development of a 50-acre recreation park, and upgrades to the rail line between Ely and McGill depot. Finally, the early learning center has been fully funded to provide daycare for local youths with construction anticipated in early 2023.

Progress has been made on **Goal No. 3:** *Working with the Main Street America Program revitalize the Ely downtown area.* Main Street has secured signage to direct travelers to attractions within the downtown area and two new billboards have been erected downtown to enhance local signage. An additional initiative has been developed to create a facade improvement program that will support local businesses with \$120K in forgivable loans to enhance overall aesthetic of business fronts. Main Street continues to support business marketing and restaurant bucks to revitalize activity in Ely's downtown area.

There has been little to no progress on both **Goal No. 4:** *Develop a comprehensive education plan for all County schools.* Public schools and charter schools are required to submit district improvement plans to the state every year, but a more comprehensive plan has yet to be developed to address the elements associated with this goal. The responsibility for this plan lies with the White Pine County School District and stakeholders from Great Basin College and the Charter School. Efforts still need to be made to engage these stakeholders and initiate this goal. However, workshop participants did adjust the language of the plan to outline a number of specific requests: *Develop a comprehensive education plan that includes identifying employment gaps, working with other agencies to attract staff, develop a plan to increase and strengthen trade skills, partner with trade colleges, develop a parent education program, update the K-12 school buildings, and address unused school facilities.*

Regarding **Goal No. 5:** *Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation/tourism plan to expand outdoor recreation accessibility and economic impact by developing outdoor businesses, services and events,* the National Parks Service Rivers and Grails Grant has been secured by Nevada Department of Tourism to map all current assets associated with the various points of interests within the county and how it relates to all communities within White Pine County. Further, the identification of specific corridors will be identified to enhance these assets throughout the county. Public meetings have been completed and this initiative is roughly 25 percent complete to date. Responsibility for this plan is assigned to the White Pine Tourism Department.

Progress has been made on **Goal No. 6:** *Develop a workforce plan to include partnerships with local industry, colleges and local high schools,* although a difficulty attracting students has limited the initial impact. A federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant has been secured by White Pine Main Street with collaboration from the Ely Tribe and the State Department of Recreation to complete a feasibility and needs assessment to create a trails improvement program that will train students on development and maintenance of recreational trails within local, state, federal park systems. The Build Core program is being offered in Ely but there has been minimal student registration resulting in insignificant activity. Great Basin College (GBC), JOIN Inc., and others continue to promote the program, but it may be possible for GBC to expand outreach. Collaboration continues with GBC to promote dual credit programs, electrical programs, diesel, and nursing programs, however, there is currently no diesel instructor so that program has been on hold. William Bee Ririe Hospital continues to assist with relevant healthcare programs as needed.

Work has not begun on **Goal No. 7:** *Develop a countywide transportation plan.* Responsibility for this plan should be assigned to White Pine County personnel in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and local communities.

For **Goal No. 8:** *Create a comprehensive broadband plan for White Pine County,* White Pine County has initiated a plan to connect all community public offices within the county starting with McGill, then Ruth, Preston, Lund, Baker and eventually expanding the service for residential use. Collaborating with the Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology (OSIT), fiber optic lines have been delivered to all schools within the White Pine County School District and to the County Courthouse. White Pine County has committed \$1M to

matching future broadband grant funding and OSIT has initiated a grant that covers 30 percent of the cost, and plan to pull fiber from Las Vegas to Wells, creating redundant fiber options for the community. Digital equity is included within these broadband plans.

Workshop participants noted **Goal No. 9:** *Work with economic development agencies to identify and recruit new businesses*, is complete. The Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) continues to work on behalf of White Pine County and the City of Ely and has submitted responses to 46 total Requests for information on behalf of the county. NNRDA continues to create new marketing material in an effort to reach new and expanding businesses throughout the nation and throughout the world.

Regarding **Goal No. 10:** *Maintain and expand efforts related to securing water in White Pine County*, White Pine County has contributed \$250K toward the development of a well at the golf course in an effort to demonstrate beneficial use for county water rights. Officials hope this will be a catalyst for other projects around the county, including the anticipated 50-acre recreation park and cemetery.

Goal No. 11: *Enhance utilization of our already successful partnerships with federal and state agencies*, has also been marked as completed. The United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have been valuable partners for White Pine County on various outdoor recreation initiatives. Great Basin National Park and the State Department of Lands have also enhanced communication. Further, emergency management mitigation planning with Waste Management has been enhanced through collaboration with various entities.

Some progress has been made on **Goal No. 12:** *Reduce energy costs by making a natural gas option available*, as the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority has held several meetings under the working title of the Northeastern Nevada Natural Gas Network. The purpose of the network is to evaluate and determine feasibility of pulling natural gas lines down from the Ruby Pipeline. Currently, Southwest Gas has filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) documents related to establishing a pipeline to Wells. If approved, White Pine officials hope the next steps will be to continue that line down US-93, bringing the line to Lages Junction and eventually to the City of Ely. This is a very ambitious goal and will require many pieces to fall into place before success can be realized. However, steps being taken for this first phase are encouraging.

Finally, no progress has been made on **Goal No. 13:** *Develop an expansion plan for the White Pine County Airport*. While this is still an important goal and White Pine County has worked with the Federal Aviation Administration to secure funds for runway maintenance and upkeep, responsibility for this plan should be assigned to White Pine County.

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

Workshop participants and survey recipients were asked to reprioritize each of the eight existing strategic economic development goals for the coming year as White Pine County continues to implement elements of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

After discussing each goal, workshop participants decided to maintain the following priority order for the coming year:

- **Priority Goal No. 1:** Develop a community plan to address housing needs to provide housing, address blight and assess needs.
- **Priority Goal No. 2:** Address outdated infrastructure and provide infrastructure that can be available for development including broadband, sewer, water, paving, buildings and others.
- **Priority Goal No. 3:** Working with the Main Street America Program revitalize the Ely downtown area.
- **Priority Goal No. 4:** Develop a comprehensive education plan that includes identifying employment gaps, working with other agencies to attract staff, develop a plan to increase and strengthen trade skills, partner with trade colleges, develop a parent education program, update the K-12 school buildings, address unused school facilities.
- **Priority Goal No. 5:** Develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation/tourism plan to expand outdoor recreation accessibility and economic impact by developing outdoor businesses, services and events.
- **Priority Goal No. 6:** Develop a workforce plan to include partnerships with local industry, colleges and local high schools as well as trades recruitment or a trades educational program specific to housing needs.
- **Priority Goal No. 7:** Develop a countywide transportation plan.
- **Priority Goal No. 8:** Create a comprehensive broadband plan for White Pine County.
- **Priority Goal No. 9:** Maintain and expand efforts related to securing water in White Pine County.
- **Priority Goal No. 10:** Reduce energy costs by making a natural gas option available.
- **Priority Goal No. 11:** Develop an expansion plan for the White Pine County Airport.
- **Completed:** Work with economic development agencies to identify and recruit new businesses.
- **Completed:** Enhance utilization of our already successful partnerships with federal and state agencies.

For the coming 2022 through 2023 year of continued implementation of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for White Pine County, workshop participants have decided to focus on completing needed improvements to the county's housing stock and

additional public infrastructure projects as the top priority followed by education and workforce development planning and tourism and recreation planning. Expanding and improving the community's overall economic development capacity, by creating revitalizing Ely's downtown and working with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority to attract new and diverse businesses will also remain a top priority for White Pine County over the next year of implementation.