CHAPTER 12: IMPLEMENTATION

Overview and Background

The various elements of the La Plata County Comprehensive Plan provide the foundation for guiding development in the County. The purpose of the *Implementation Element* of the plan is to set forth a framework that ensures that the goals outlined in the plan are met. Included in this chapter is a recommended approach for plan review and monitoring; a summary of generalized actions and time frames that County staff can use in establishing an ongoing work program; and a recommended *Action Item Prioritization Table* that summarizes the plan goals, action items and estimated schedule for initiating the action items. **(click in box above for link to table)**

Plan Review and Monitoring

The La Plata County Comprehensive Plan outlines a number of strategies for achieving the goals established in the plan. In order to determine whether the strategies are effective, a program for plan monitoring and review must be established. The monitoring program will help the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners understand both progress and setbacks in achieving the plan goals. It will also help staff and decision-makers determine the effectiveness of plan strategies and appropriate revisions.

On an annual basis, staff should report to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners on the previous year's progress towards implementing the Action Items listed in Table 12-1. Prior to the budget cycle each year, staff should determine whether any changes to the prioritized list of Action Items should be made, and subsequently scheduled into the next year's work program.

As discussed in *Chapter 4: Land Use*, it is recommended that the district land use plans be put into an annual rotating review schedule. This will help to ensure that the plans remain relevant and dynamic, and incorporate changing conditions in a timely manner. It is also recommended that the bi-annual plan amendment process allowing for project-specific plan changes should be maintained on a March/September schedule.

The goals of the comprehensive plan should be revisited every 5-years to determine whether they are still relevant to the communities desires.

Action Item Prioritization

The Action Items identified in Table 12-1 are an initial list of actions that the County should undertake to help ensure that the goals of the comprehensive plan are met. The list is not intended to be all-inclusive. The County may pursue different strategies and adjust priorities based on changing opportunities and conditions. The Action Items presented in Table 12-1 are categorized into four specific *Action Groups* below. These Action Groups categorize specific Action Items to be undertaken in 2001, 2002, and 2003. As mentioned earlier, these action groups should be

CHAPTER 12: IMPLEMENTATION

revisited annually to establish priorities for coming years.

The Action Groups include:

- **Advocacy/Technical Support** – these are typically ongoing and not resource intensive
- **Additional Study** – likely to involve extensive staff research and/or consultant services
- **District Plan Amendments** – staff intensive with significant public involvement
- **Land Use Code Revisions** – also staff intensive with significant public involvement and possible consultant services

ADVOCACY/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Ongoing
Advocacy/Technical support includes the ongoing assistance to other public and private entities involved in community development issues. It may include participation in task forces, steering committees and other advisory groups; requests of other public agencies; lobbying; and public proclamations. This group includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following action items:

1) BOCC adoption of planning goals from Comprehensive Plan
2) Request San Juan Basin Health to fully evaluate effectiveness of ISDS regulations
3) Participate in County-wide Housing Authority
4) Encourage stronger private sector affordable housing efforts
5) Support efforts of Southwest Colorado Riparian Partnership
6) Publicly support development of rural water system
7) Support open space initiatives and efforts of land conservancies
8) Proclaim Hwy 160 between Grandview and Gem Village as a high priority visual corridor
9) Lobby State to implement additional agriculture preservation initiatives
10) Request completion of FEMA flood plain study

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Balance of 2001
1) Adopt Comprehensive Plan
2) Refine USGS water monitoring data collection program
3) Update County Planning Web Site

2002
1) Begin refinement of Agricultural Protection Subdivision Exemption Process.
2) Undertake and complete Extractive Resources Element of Comprehensive Plan
3) Refine visual corridor map
4) Finalize Animas Valley ridge line study
5) Research TDR/PDR and other growth tools
6) Work with DOW to establish revised wildlife inventories and "best practices" guide

7) Evaluate ISDS regulations

2003
1) Evaluate recreation funding sources
2) Evaluate Agriculture Property Tax Fund
3) Evaluate recapitalization of affordable housing revolving loan fund
4) Reevaluate road standards
5) Evaluate rural lands assistance program

DISTRICT PLAN AMENDMENTS

Balance of 2001
1) Establish district plan revision schedule

2002
1) Undertake non-residential lands analysis in conjunction with "Growth Hub" analysis
2) Complete one district plan revision
3) initiate joint planning area discussions with local municipalities
4) Research airport "area of influence"
5) Work with Fort Lewis Mesa and Southeast Districts on plan development

2003
1) Complete one plan revision
2) Create flexible cluster design and buffering guidelines
3) Initiate service area discussions with central service providers

LAND USE CODE REVISION

Balance of 2001
1) Quantify necessary Code revisions

2002
1) Retain consultant services
2) Initiate Code revision

2003
1) Finalize Code revision