

VOLUME II: MINIDOKA COUNTY
Draft Plan





Acknowledgements

Cortney Abenroth	Amy Cook	Jeff Miller
David Abrahamson	Roger Davis	Fritz Murdoch
Dusty Adams	Sydney Duffin	Robert Nevarez Sr.
Paul Aston	Justin Franz	David Phillips
Ruth S. Bailes	Kent Hansen	Dan Renz
Garth Baker	Ralph Hansen	Lance Schneider
Jacob Barclay	Taylor Holiday	Gary Schorzman
Jennie Bateman	Sheryl Koyle	Juan Silvas
Roy Belnap	Dan Lloyd	Lloyd Smith
Kevan Bessire	Justin Maughn	Cheyenne Suchran
Steve Bradshaw	Alan Maxwell	Travis Turner
Brent Browning	Kent McClellan	Krystal Young
Kit Carney	Cortney Mitchell	Jarod Williams

Minidoka County Staff

Rick Nay
Brett Stephens

Minidoka County Commissioners

Wayne Schenk, Chairman
Jared Orton, Vice Chairman
Dan Schaeffer, Commissioner

City of Paul City Council

Brent Stimpson, Mayor
Conrad May, Councilmember
Vicki Mcllellan, Councilmember
Brooks Corbirdge, Council President
Brent Browning, Councilmember

City of Rupert City Council

Tammy Jones, Mayor
Joel Heward, Council President
Randy Thompson, Councilmember
Kris Faux, Councilmember
James Wardle, Councilmember



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IIA. Environment

1. Minidoka County: Today

Natural Resources, Special Areas, and Recreation

Minidoka County owes its growth to the Minidoka Dam. The Minidoka Dam was the first Federally built dam in the Pacific Northwest, standing 86 feet high and 2,300 feet long, spanning the Snake River.

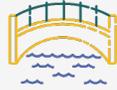
The Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge surrounds Lake Walcott. The 20,699 acres of open water and wetlands is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It provides habitat for many fish and wildlife species that seek refuge from miles around. Lake Walcott State Park has since become a very popular recreational site. People of all ages come to the shores of the lake for picnics, summer swimming, and to utilize the disc golf course.

The Snake River continues its circuitous track west after leaving Lake Walcott, forming the entire southern boundary of Minidoka County. The Snake provides multiple opportunities for water-related outdoor recreation, including boating, fishing, and skiing.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Reserve takes up the northern half of Minidoka County, although the Monument and Visitor Center is only accessible from State Highway 20 in Blaine County. Major parks and amenities are depicted in **Figure IIA.1**.

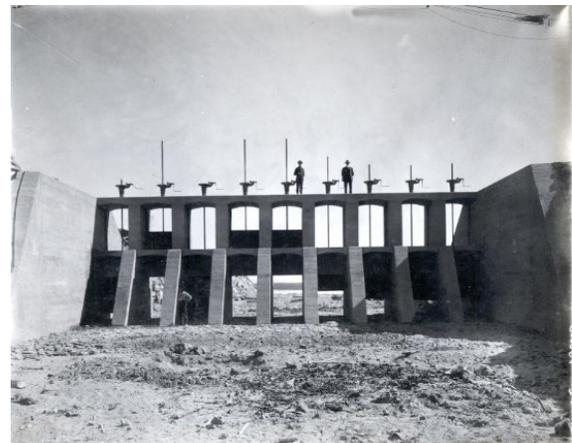
Hazardous Areas

Southern Idaho does not experience much in the way of natural disasters. According to Idaho's All Hazards Mitigation Plan, Minidoka County has experienced severe winter storms, heavy rains, and flooding. The County has not been identified as being at risk for earthquakes, volcanic eruption, or fire. Although the potential for wildfire is higher in the hot, dry summer months.



Quick Facts

- Minidoka County boasts a diverse landscape ranging from sagebrush plains and agricultural fields to dramatic basalt lava flows.
- Lake Walcott reservoir provides irrigation water critical to sustaining the agricultural economy of the region.
- Minidoka County has experienced severe winter storms, heavy rains, and flooding.

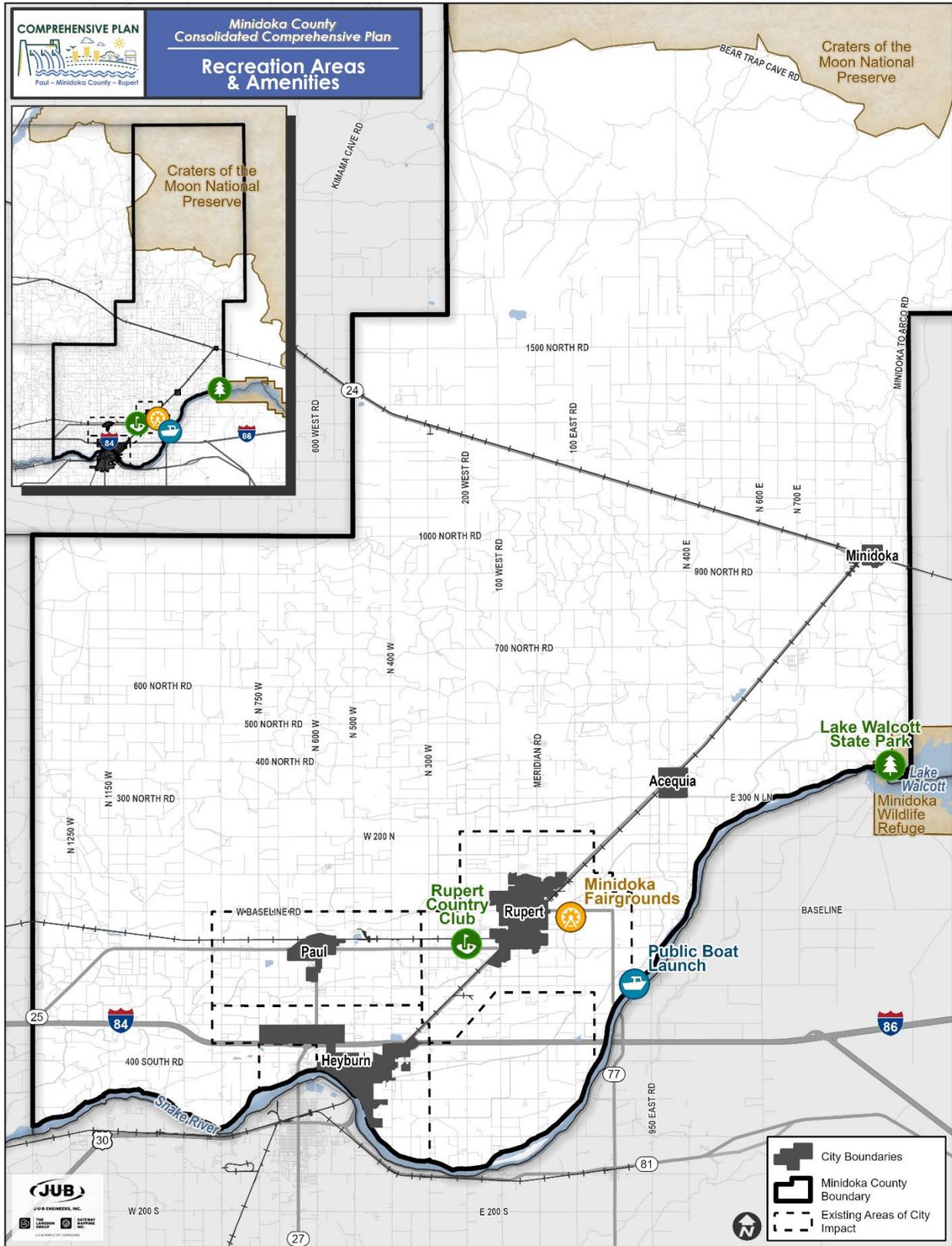


Minidoka Dam - September 28, 1906





Figure IIA.1: Recreation and Amenities





2. Minidoka County: Tomorrow

Minidoka values its clean air and water, rural agrarian culture, and open space. County residents are eager to balance the need for housing new residents and maintaining a rural atmosphere. With an increase in population, the County should continue to provide access to open areas and recreational opportunities, as well as protection from natural disasters.

3. Goal, Objectives, and Implementation Strategies

Environment Goal: Encourage land use policies which promote responsible use of public lands and conserve our natural resources so that future generations may continue to enjoy clean air and water, healthy and productive soils, as well as open spaces.

Objective IIA.3.1: Identify areas suitable for conservation.

Strategies:

IIA.3.1.a: Cooperate with cities, landowners, irrigation districts, taxing districts, and BLM for conservation agreements.

IIA.3.1.b: Encourage and develop incentives for historic land and/or building preservation.

Objective IIA.3.2: Create public access to the river (two potential locations noted on Future Land Use map)

Strategies:

IIA.3.2.a: Develop a county park by the river.

IIA.3.2.b: Protect natural viewscales of surrounding mountain ranges.

Objective IIA.3.3: Promote community understanding of water resources.

Strategies:

IIA.3.3.a: Support education outreach on water, such as domestic vs. irrigation water rights, water reuse, and water conservation.

Objective IIA.3.4: Avoid development in floodplains and hazardous or sensitive areas.

Strategies:

IIA.3.4.a: Establish mitigation priorities, develop mitigation strategies, and encourage Best Management Practices to reduce flood, landslide, wildfire, and earthquake risk.

IIA.3.4.b: Avoid septic systems in areas with shallow groundwater (high water table).

IIA.3.4.c: Update FEMA flood maps.

IIA.3.4.d: Maintain a current Hazard Mitigation Plan for Minidoka County.

Objective IIA.3.5: Support and promote access to public lands.

Strategies:

IIA.3.5.a: Identify areas suitable for recreational use.

IIA.3.5.b: Identify opportunities for regional connections between parks that provide community connections.

IIA.3.5.c: Cooperate with cities, landowners, irrigation districts, taxing districts, and BLM for recreational use agreements.



IIB. Economy

F.

1. Minidoka County: Today

Agriculture

Agriculture is the driving force of the Minidoka County economy. The 2017 Census of Agriculture reported that there were 620 farms and 267,567 acres of farmland in Minidoka County. Crops include grains, beans, potatoes, and sugar beets. Soil types and agricultural lands are depicted in **Figure IIB.1**.

Minidoka County is ranked number one in the nation for sugar beet production. Processing and refining of the beets into sugar occurs at the Amalgamated Sugar Co. factory in Paul. The factory processes about 16.5 tons of beets per day.

One percent of farms in the county farm organically, and two percent of farms sell directly to consumers. Minidoka is also one of the top sheep-producing counties in the nation, producing 103,660 sheep and lambs in 2017. (Refer to **Appendix B**, Agriculture report.)



Quick Facts

- Minidoka County is ranked number one in the nation for sugar beet production.
- Currently there is not an airport located within Minidoka County.
- Minidoka County and neighboring Cassia County formed and authorized a joint commerce authority called the MiniCassia Chamber of Commerce.
- As of 2020, the per capita income of Minidoka County is \$46,743.



Barn and agricultural field in Minidoka County

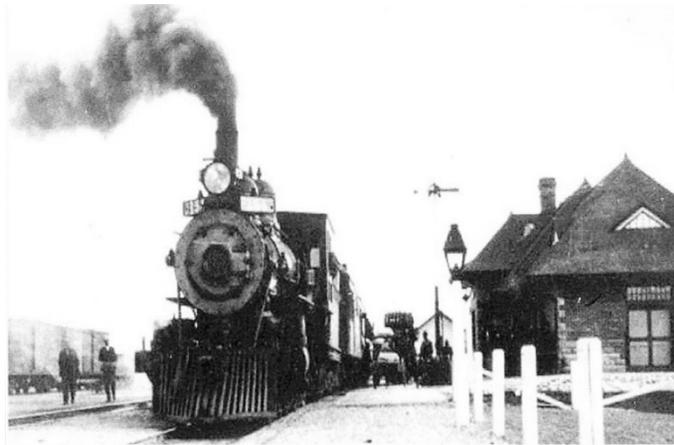


Transportation

Currently there is no airport within Minidoka County. The closest airport is the Burley Municipal Airport. Future relocation of the Burley airport has long been discussed as an opportunity to attract new businesses to the area. Although considered during the planning process, it was not identified as a high priority for Minidoka County during the Comprehensive Plan update. There are private airstrips serving local farms and ranches.

Rail lines can be found across Minidoka County, but there are no passenger rail services in the area. The Union Pacific Railroad runs through the cities of Rupert, Heyburn and Paul and connects to Buhl 75 miles to the west. The trains typically transport grain, agricultural and food products, coal, limestone, aggregates, and chemicals.

Outside city limits, roads are maintained by the Minidoka County Highway District. The District does not currently have a transportation master plan, nor does it utilize any federal funding for transportation improvements. Maintenance and improvements to county roads are 100% funded by tax revenue generated by the Highway District. Growth pressure and the development of new subdivisions in the County strain already limited resources. Development and adoption of a transportation master plan could help the Highway District become eligible for federal funding support.



Historic photo of Minidoka Depot and Steam Engine

Economic Development

Minidoka County and neighboring Cassia County formed and authorized a joint commerce authority called the MiniCassia Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber began in 1993 when Rupert and Burley chambers merged.

Minidoka County is part of Region IV Economic Development District of Idaho. Region IV Development released the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025, which includes an assessment of income, housing costs, and employment in the region. According to this document, the regional poverty rate is above state and national averages



and median household income is below regional and national averages. Wages are not keeping up with the price of homes in the south-central region of Idaho. Housing prices have increased by more than 150% since 2015 whereas worker income only grew between 25% and 32%.

As of 2020, the per capita income of Minidoka County is \$46,743. This is slightly below the statewide income of \$48,759. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities account for the most employees of any job sector, averaging 1,751 people. This is followed closely by education and health services and natural resources and mining. Sugar beet farms are a critical component of the local economy.

The demographic distribution in Minidoka County indicates a well-balanced ratio between millennials, who are between the ages of 25 and 40 in the year 2021, and baby boomers, who fall within the age range of 57 to 75. This harmonious blend of millennials and baby boomers is expected to have positive implications, particularly for the county's labor force. (Refer to **Appendix B**, Economic Development report)

2. Minidoka County: Tomorrow

Agriculture is an integral part of Minidoka County's economy and culture. Public comments overwhelmingly supported the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural-related industries as critical to the future of Minidoka County. The long-term sustainability of agriculture depends upon productive agriculture ground and competitive wages. (Refer to **Figure IIB.I.**)

The Idaho legislature passed new provisions, effective July 1, 2024, for Agricultural Protection Areas to protect and enhance the economic benefits working lands provide Idahoans (Title 67, Chapter 97). County governments will be forming Agricultural Protection Area Commissions to administer the program and accept applications from landowners, no later than January 1, 2025.

Given the vast open spaces and the operating farmlands throughout Minidoka County residents would benefit from a system of trails and pathways that connect them to the various communities within the County, and recreational activities.

The County should consider how to diversify local industry and business beyond agriculture and attract a complementary workforce, to retain local youth and attract innovation and talent. The demographic synergy of Millennials and Baby Boomers can offer unique advantages for Minidoka County's workforce. The diverse skill sets, experiences, and perspectives that both millennials and baby boomers bring to the table can complement each other effectively. This mutual collaboration is likely to contribute to a well-rounded and productive labor force, potentially enhancing economic growth and stability within the county.





3. Goal, Objectives, and Implementation Strategies

Economy Goal: Support a balanced economy that is derived from the tradition of agriculture, and includes access to enterprises that offer education, employment, and commerce.

Objective IIB.3.1: Support a sustainable future for Minidoka's agricultural economy by balancing development requirements with agriculture industry.

Strategies:

- IIB.3.1.a:** Review zoning map and zone descriptions pertaining to agriculture and commercial uses.
- IIB.3.1.b:** Provide definitions, revise, or clarify purpose of Ag-Low, Ag-Med, and Ag-High zones.
- IIB.3.1.c:** Identify priority agricultural areas and use zoning to avoid development of productive agricultural ground.
- IIB.3.1.d:** Appoint and support the Agricultural Protection Area Commission.

Objective IIB.3.2: Develop guidelines for the development of agricultural lands.

Strategies:

- IIB.3.2.a:** Identify location and size of parcels better suited for future development than ag production.
- IIB.3.2.b:** Identify areas best suited for industrial and commercial use and appropriate buffers, if needed.
- IIB.3.2.c:** Review/Revise current policy to support preservation of valuable and productive agriculture lands.

Objective IIB.3.3: Improve transportation routes to facilitate safe and efficient transportation for residential, agricultural, and commercial traffic.

Strategies:

- IIB.3.3.a:** Identify, improve, and clearly define truck routes for the traveling public.
- IIB.3.3.b:** Identify needed interchange improvements.
- IIB.3.3.c:** Identify and apply for funding opportunities for transportation improvements.
- IIB.3.3.d:** Coordinate improvements and funding opportunities between the County, nearby cities, Minidoka Highway District, and the Idaho Transportation Department.

Objective IIB.3.4: Improve transportation for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Strategies:

- IIB.3.4.a:** Improve connectivity of trails and pathways in the County and between communities and points of interest.
- IIB.3.4.b:** Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and bike/ped events such as fun runs/rides, marathons, and other competitive activities.





Objective IIB.3.5: Support growth and innovation by providing opportunities to diversify industries beyond agriculture.

Strategies:

- IIB.3.5.a:** Identify local workforce skills and partner with organizations to encourage strong business and community relationships for economic growth.
- IIB.3.5.b:** Focus infrastructure improvements (internet, utilities, transportation) in areas targeted for economic development.
- IIB.3.5.c:** Work with the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, Region IV Development, and the Idaho Economic Development Association to identify and coordinate opportunities for economic growth and development.
- IIB.3.5.d:** Work with the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, Region IV Development, and the Idaho Economic Development Association to attract new businesses and support existing businesses.

Objective IIB.3.6: Develop a sustainable, local workforce.

Strategies:

- IIB.3.6.a:** Provide opportunities for workforce training.
- IIB.3.6.b:** Provide options for childcare and senior care.





IIC. Community

1. Minidoka County: Today

Land Use, Housing, and Community Design

Over half of the County is comprised of public land – primarily Craters of the Moon National Monument and Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge. Historic lava flows present challenges to certain land uses in the region, influencing suitability of land for cultivation and residential development served by septic systems. The availability of water is a major limiting factor for both agriculture and land development. Irrigation water rights sustain agriculture south of “the bench” – a topographical feature that delineates the northern boundary of gravity flow irrigation water from Lake Walcott. Water rights for irrigation and domestic water are administered by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. While the difference between the two is substantial, their impact on local land use is not well-understood by the public.



Quick Facts

- Approximately 53% of the County is made up of public land.
- Minidoka County housing stock is dated, while keeping pace with housing demand.
- Minidoka County Joint School District #331 consists of 10 schools from kindergarten to high school.

Minidoka County is comprised of the Cities of Rupert, Paul, Heyburn, a small portion of Burley, Acequia and Minidoka. Acequia, a small, incorporated city, and the Minidoka townsite are located in the north central portion of the County along State Highway 24.

Increased demand for housing in recent years has resulted in subdivision development throughout the county. Public feedback on guiding subdivision development indicated a strong preference for preserving agricultural lands and the long-term agricultural economy of the county. Multiple planning tools were explored to guide growth and development to suitable areas while minimizing impacts to productive agricultural lands. This led to the development of qualitative criteria for the permitting and approval of future subdivisions. These are detailed in **Table C.1** in the Agriculture Preservation and Agriculture land use designations. Remaining land use designations define the characteristics of land uses that are anticipated in other parts of Minidoka County.



Entrance to Lake Walcott State Park



Land use practices in Areas of Impact (AOI) are of critical importance to community design and future land use. Land use practices in AOIs are intended to facilitate future growth and development of the city and city infrastructure that will serve it in the future. Minidoka County has approved AOI maps and ordinances in place for the cities of Rupert, Paul, and Heyburn and Minidoka. ~~Due to new State requirements, Minidoka County and each of these Cities will need to review their existing documents and reestablish the areas in conformance with the provisions of amended State Statute 67-6526, by December 31, 2025.~~

Figure IIC.1 Gap in Housing Units and Population

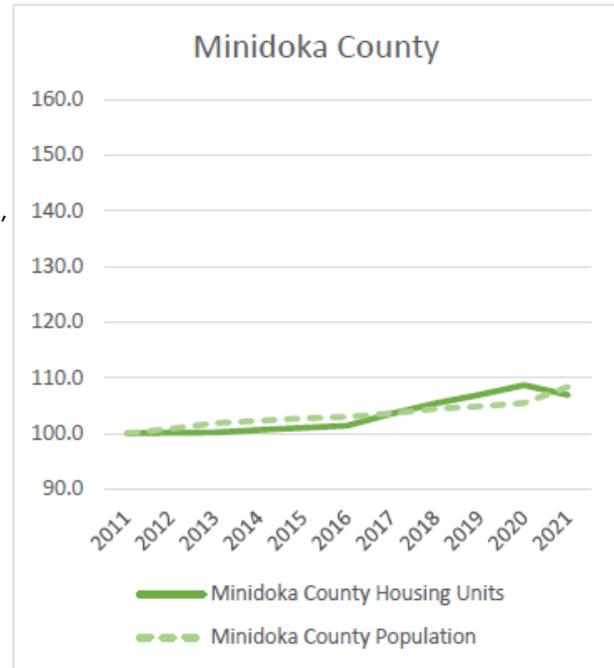


Figure IIC.1 compares the supply of housing with population. If the population is falling faster than the housing stock, the resulting surplus of housing units can depress property values and result in increased vacancy, abandonment, and a general decline in the quality of the low-priced housing stock. In contrast, when the population is growing faster than the housing stock, generally the vacancy rate is declining or crowding is increasing. Minidoka County is keeping pace with demand, but the housing stock remains dated with the median house built approximately 50 years ago. This equates to more repairs and strain on the continuous shortage of labor for skilled workers in the construction field, (Refer to **Appendix B**, Housing report.)

School Facilities and Transportation

The Minidoka County Joint School District #331 consists of 10 schools which range from kindergarten to high school. Enrollment numbers have stayed consistent throughout the last five years. **Table IIC.1** shows student enrollment for the last five years. A drop in enrollment occurred at elementary schools during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table IIC.1 Minico School District Student Enrollment

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
4,262	4,328	4,147	4,422	4,354

In 2018, the Boys and Girls Club expanded their services to Rupert in order to serve the Minidoka County School District Elementary students. Their after-school program is located in the Rupert Clubhouse in Neptune Park.

Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities

Safety. The County Sherriff's office is located at 724 H street in Rupert. The Sheriff is responsible for preserving the peace.





Utilities. Southern Idaho Solid Waste is the regional solid waste district that operates in several counties throughout Southern Idaho, including Minidoka County. The Cities of Heyburn, Paul and Rupert provide their residents with ~~electricity~~ water and wastewater services. The City Rupert provides Electrical services to it's residents while Heyburn, Paul and rural Minidoka County residents receive electrical services through a variety of local utility Co-ops. ~~Rupert operates a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility.~~ PMT primarily provides residents of Minidoka County with telecommunication services.

County Buildings. The County Courthouse is located at ~~711~~ 715 G Street in Rupert. The building was built in 1917 after the Courthouse outgrew its original location in the Rupert Square. The law enforcement building was constructed with the aid of federal grants in 1972. It once served as the County Jail but currently houses the Juvenile Detention Center and the Minidoka County Sheriff's Office. The County owns and operates the Minidoka County Fairgrounds (85 E. Baseline Road, Rupert).

Facilities. The Minidoka County Senior Center is located at 702 11th street and offers services and meals to seniors in the area. The Senior Center is a non-profit organization.

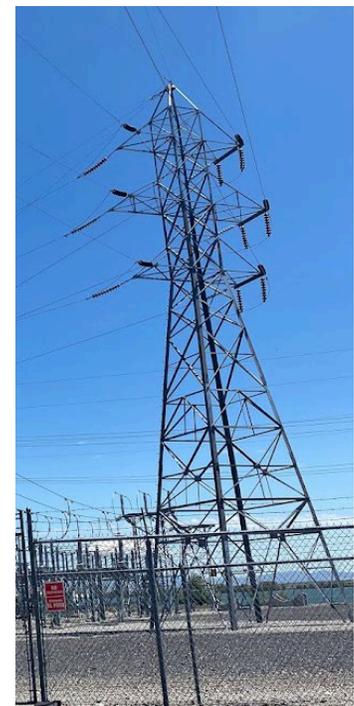
2. Minidoka County: Tomorrow

Minidoka County strives to provide its residents with efficient public services and designate land uses areas that promote better quality of life. This includes ensuring that new residential development does not impede on existing agricultural land. Furthermore, the County communicates regularly with the municipalities and special districts within their borders to ensure that public services are provided to county residents and visitors.

In anticipation of the increase in population (25,850 total population in 2045, an increase of over 4,000 residents or about 60 new households annually outside of city limits) a FLUM has been prepared for those land areas outside the ~~AOIs~~ City's Incorporated boundaries(refer to **Figure IIC.1**). ~~However, with the passage of the new State legislation, the County will be conferring with each of the three cities regarding their impact areas to ensure that they are based on the ability and likelihood of the city to annex lands within the near future.~~

The FLUM illustrates the various types and distribution of land uses anticipated in the years ahead. The land use categories on **Table IIC.1** identify the types and nature of development depicted on the FLUM.

As the area continues to experience increased population growth, affordable housing must be a priority. Housing options are limited and there are not many options for young people who want to remain in their hometown. The County has recognized the need to diversify its housing options by including a variety of housing types, particularly where adequate public services are situated.



Power generated from Minidoka Dam





Table IIC.2: Minidoka County Land Use Categories

Agriculture Preservation	Agriculture
<p>Areas having particularly high agricultural value including areas/lands critical for the long-term viability and economic health of the agricultural industry. Uses other than agriculture is discouraged. These lands are characterized by the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property has irrigation rights • Parcel is a shape suitable for standard large-scale agriculture irrigation methods (center pivot, wheel or hand lines, lateral lines) • Existing parcels larger than twenty (>20) acres in size • Agricultural protection areas are permitted, pursuant to §67-9700 of Idaho Code 	<p>Areas identified moderate to high agricultural value where limited development (agricultural services, agricultural related commercial/industrial, single family residential) may be permitted subject to development standards to preserve the long-term viability and economic health of the agricultural industry, These lands are characterized by the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property has irrigation rights • Parcel is a shape suitable for standard large-scale agriculture irrigation methods (center pivot, wheel or hand lines, lateral lines) • Existing parcels less than 20 (<20) and larger than ten (>10) acres in size • Agricultural protection areas are permitted, pursuant to §67-9700 of Idaho Code
Commercial	Industrial
<p>Areas suitable for the retail sales of goods and services due to two or more of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing connection(s) or ability to connect to public water and sewer service. • Existing connection(s) or ability to connect to transportation routes which facilitate traffic and parking associated with the purchase/sale of goods or services provided. • Proximity to neighborhoods/clientele for which goods and services are produced. 	<p>Areas suitable for the manufacture, processing, and testing of goods and materials due to two or more of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing connection(s) or ability to connect to public water and sewer service. • Existing connection(s) or ability to connect to transportation routes which facilitate associated traffic and the import/export of goods without negatively affecting residential streets. • Distance from residential or other conflicting uses which may be negatively impacted by noise, odor, or other nuisances generated industrial uses.
Public Lands	River Access Buffer
<p>Designated on lands that are owned by governmental entities or intended principally for the use by the public, including government offices, public safety buildings, schools, parks, libraries, and post offices. Public areas often encourage recreation, education, interaction, and cultural events, that contribute to the quality of life of residents. Includes land located within the boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.</p>	River PUD
	<p>BLM and County-owned lands along the Snake River which provide opportunities for recreation and/or open space preservation. Agricultural protection areas may also be permitted, pursuant to §67-9700 of Idaho Code.</p> <p>Areas between ¼ – ½ mile from the Snake River which provide a transition to Agricultural or Agricultural Preservation lands, where limited residential development may be permitted in alignment with Agricultural goals and objectives.</p>



3. Goal, Objectives, and Implementation Strategies

COMMUNITY GOAL: Provide public facilities and services that enable residents and visitors to thrive and benefit from the historic small-town character and quality of life, including access to recreation and other amenities.

Objective IIC.3.1: Encourage suitable land uses around highways and railroads.

Strategies:

IIC.3.1.a: Evaluate existing zoning designations around highways and railroads to determine opportunities and constraints.

IIC.3.1.b: Provide buffers and/or green space or park space to mitigate negative impacts on surrounding uses.

IIC.3.1.c: Consider rezoning around highways and railroads where necessary to provide opportunities for suitable land uses and mitigate negative impacts on surrounding uses.

IIC.3.1.d: Encourage sewer and water improvements with redevelopment and/or new development to support infill and efficient use of resources.

Objective IIC.3.2: Support the development of diverse housing options to meet the needs of local residents of all ages and the local workforce.

Strategies:

IIC.3.2.a: Support growth that is developed with supporting infrastructure and community services such as drinking water, sewer, streets, and flood/fire protection.

IIC.3.2.b: Encourage the redevelopment and/or renovation of existing housing stock.

IIC.3.2.c: Coordinate community development strategies with surrounding counties and cities to identify successful strategies to meet housing needs.

IIC.3.2.d: Consider zoning amendments, where city services may be provided, to permit multifamily housing such as condos, townhomes, or other medium/high density housing types.

IIC.3.2.e: Consider future connectivity/access to adjacent land for new subdivisions and development.

Objective IIC.3.3: Actively plan for future school and transportation needs based on current trends and projected growth.

IIC.3.3.a: Conduct facility planning to evaluate current level of service, capacity, and future needs.

IIC.3.3.b: Identify funding options for necessary improvements.

IIC.3.3.c: Consider bike and pedestrian access to schools when evaluating/designing transportation improvements.

IIC.3.3.d: Support programs for post-secondary education, training, and lifelong learning.





Objective IIC.3.4: Adopt minimum standards for subdivision development to preserve quality of life and protect community resources.

Strategies:

IIC.3.4.a: Adopt minimum standards to address concerns about one-acre lots on individual wells and septic systems.

IIC.3.4.b: Identify community and regional opportunities to connect parks and trails and maintain those connections when new development occurs.

Objective IIC.3.5: Develop a long-range facility plan for county buildings and adoption/implementation of new technology for county systems/administration.

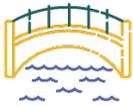
Strategies:

IIC.3.5.a: Consider population projections and long-term maintenance and operational costs when prioritizing projects for implementation.

IIC.3.5.b: Obtain grant-writing assistance as-needed to acquire funding for eligible projects.

IIC.3.5.c: Coordinate with cities for infrastructure improvements/expansion in areas of impact.





IID. Implementation

This section consists of a table that lists all strategies presented in Sections A, B and C by assigned priorities (high, medium, and low). Each strategy lists a lead City Department or responsible party as well as potential partners to accomplish implementation. The strategies requiring continued collaboration for successful implementation are listed under a separate section below.

Number	Strategies	County Partners
HIGH PRIORITY		
IIA.3.2.a	Develop a county park by the river.	ID Parks and Recreation
IIA.3.2.b	Protect natural viewscales of surrounding mountain ranges.	Planning and Zoning Commission
IIA.3.3.a	Support education outreach on water, such as domestic vs. irrigation water rights, water reuse, and water conservation.	ID Dep. of Water Resources, IDEQ, Idaho State University
IIA.3.4.b	Avoid use of septic systems in areas with shallow groundwater (high water table).	Public Health District
IIA.3.5.a	Identify areas suitable for recreational use.	Planning and Zoning Commission, ID Parks and Recreation
IIB.3.1.b	Provide definitions, revise, or clarify purpose of Ag-Low, Ag-Med, and Ag-High zones.	Planning and Zoning Commission, Planning Staff
IIB.3.1.c	Identify priority agricultural areas and use zoning to avoid development of productive agricultural ground.	Planning and Zoning Commission, Planning Staff
IIB.3.1.d	Appoint and support an Agricultural Protection Area Commission	
IIB.3.2.a	Identify location and size of parcels better suited for future development than ag production.	Planning and Zoning Commission, Planning Staff
IIB.3.2.b	Identify areas best suited for industrial and commercial use and appropriate buffers, if needed.	Planning and Zoning Commission, Planning Staff
IIB.3.3.c	Identify and apply for funding opportunities for transportation improvements.	Minidoka Highway District
IIB.3.6.a	Provide opportunities for workforce training.	Regional IV Development, Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce





IIB.3.6.b	Provide options for childcare and senior care.	ID Association for the Education of Young Children, American Association of Retired Persons
IIC.3.1.d:	Encourage sewer and water improvements with redevelopment and/or new development to support infill and efficient use of resources.	IDEQ
IIC.3.2.a	Support growth that is developed with supporting infrastructure and community services such as drinking water, sewer, streets, and flood/fire protection.	IDEQ, ID Dep. of Water Resources, Public Health District, fire districts
IIC.3.2.b	Encourage the redevelopment and/or renovation of existing housing stock.	Planning and Building Department, Planning Commission
IIC.3.2.c	Coordinate community development strategies with surrounding counties and cities to identify successful strategies to meet housing needs.	Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn, Burley
IIC.3.3.b	Identify funding options for necessary improvements.	Minidoka School District, Minidoka Highway District, LHTAC, IDEQ
IIC.3.4.a	Adopt minimum standards to address concerns about one-acre lots on individual wells and septic systems.	Planning and Zoning Commission, County Commissioners, IDEQ, Public Health District
IIC.3.5.c	Coordinate with cities for infrastructure improvements/expansion in areas of impact.	Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn, Burley, County Commissioners
MEDIUM PRIORITY		
IIA.3.1.a	Cooperate with cities, landowners, irrigation districts, taxing districts, and BLM for conservation agreements.	Cities, property owners, irrigation district, and BLM
IIA.3.1.b	Encourage and develop incentives for historic land and/or building preservation.	Planning and Zoning Commission, Certified Local Government, ID State Historic Preservation Office
IIA.3.4.a	Establish mitigation priorities, develop mitigation strategies, and encourage Best Management Practices to reduce flood, landslide, wildfire, and earthquake risk.	ID Office of Emergency Management, State Floodplain Coordinator
IIA.3.4.d	Maintain a current Hazard Mitigation Plan for Minidoka County.	ID Office of Emergency Management



IIA.3.5.b	Identify opportunities for regional connections between parks that provide community connections.	Planning and Zoning Commission, cities of Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn, and Burley
IIA.3.5.c	Cooperate with cities, landowners, irrigation districts, taxing districts, and BLM for recreational use agreements	Cities, property owners, irrigation district, and BLM
IIB.3.1.a	Review zoning map and zone descriptions pertaining to agriculture and commercial uses.	Planning and Zoning Commission
IIB.3.2.c	Review/Revise current policy to support preservation of valuable and productive agriculture lands.	Agricultural Protection Commission, Planning Staff, Planning Commission
IIB.3.3.a	Identify, improve, and clearly define truck routes for the traveling public.	ITD, Minidoka Highway District
IIB.3.3.b	Identify needed interchange improvements.	ITD, Minidoka Highway District
IIB.3.3.d	Coordinate improvements and funding opportunities between the County, nearby cities, Minidoka Highway District, and the Idaho Transportation Department.	Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn, Minidoka Highway District, ITD
IIB.3.4.b	Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and bike/ped events such as fun runs/rides, marathons, and other competitive activities.	Organized trail groups, Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn
IIB.3.5.b	Focus infrastructure improvements (internet, utilities, transportation) in areas targeted for economic development.	Regional IV Development, Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn
IIB.3.5.c	Work with the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, Region IV Development, and the Idaho Economic Development Association to identify and coordinate opportunities for economic growth and development.	Regional IV Development, Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Economic Development Association
IIB.3.5.d	Work with the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, Region IV Development, and the Idaho Economic Development Association to attract new businesses and support existing businesses.	Regional IV Development, Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Economic Development Association
IIC.3.1.a	Evaluate existing zoning designations around highways and railroads to determine opportunities and constraints.	Planning and Zoning Commission, Minidoka Highway District, ITD
IIC.3.1.b	Provide buffers and/or green space or park space to mitigate negative impacts on surrounding uses.	Planning and Zoning Commission





IIC.3.1.c	Consider rezoning around highways and railroads where necessary to provide opportunities for suitable land uses and mitigate negative impacts on surrounding uses.	Planning and Zoning Commission
IIC.3.2.d	Consider zoning amendments, where city services may be provided, to permit multifamily housing such as condos, townhomes, or other medium/high density housing types.	Planning and Zoning Commission
IIC.3.3.a	Conduct facility planning to evaluate current level of service, capacity, and future needs.	Minidoka School District, Minidoka Highway District, IDEQ
IIC.3.3.c	Consider bike and pedestrian access to schools when evaluating/designing transportation improvements.	Minidoka School District, Minidoka Highway District, LHTAC
IIC.3.3.d	Support programs for post-secondary education, training, and lifelong learning.	County Commissioners, Minidoka School District, Regional IV Development
IIC.3.4.b	Identify community and regional opportunities to connect parks and trails and maintain those connections when new development occurs.	Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn, Burley, ID Dep. of Parks and Recreation
IIC.3.5.a	Consider population projections and long-term maintenance and operational costs when prioritizing projects for implementation.	County Commissioners
LOW PRIORITY		
IIA.3.4.c	Update FEMA flood maps.	State Floodplain Coordinator, FEMA Region X
IIB.3.4.a	Improve connectivity of trails and pathways in the County and between communities and points of interest.	Organized trail groups, Rupert, Paul, Acequia, Heyburn
IIB.3.5.a	Identify local workforce skills and partner with organizations to encourage strong business and community relationships for economic growth.	Regional IV Development, Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Economic Development Association