

COUNTY-CITY-TOWN-(TRIBE) MIXER

DREAM MANOR INN – GLOBE

5/09/08

STRENGTHS

Great location – geographic center of state, ease of access from Sky Harbor Airport

Diversity - ethnic, cultural, age, etc.

Geographic topography – viewscape, great horizons

Cultural ethnicity

Beautiful scenery

Roosevelt Lake

Hunting, fishing, hiking, biking trails, etc.

Open spaces

National Forests

Natural resources

Climate – four seasons

Sense of community – people who really care

Highly skilled, experienced and community-minded senior citizen volunteers

Rural life-style (slower paced – better place to raise families)

Clean air (relative freedom from man-made pollutants)

Natural history - Native American, Spaniards, pioneers, old west, mining, etc.

Water (if SRP would let us use it ... tongue-in-cheek)

Disintegration of family

K-12 education – access to high quality

Higher education funding cut-backs

Natural disaster - fire, flood, etc.

Drug education – shortage of resources

Rural healthcare and nursing shortage

State funding distribution needs to reflect size of area governed, as well as population

Lack of “paper water” - we have more wet water & yet access to less real water

Lack of trainable, responsible workforce

Lack of political clout at state & federal level

Litigation – we live in a sue first and talk later society

Sky high energy cost – extra costs to government and reduced revenue from tourists

OPPORTUNITIES

Create rural alliances based on fairness and a position of moral high ground

Create rural - urban (small town - big city) coalition for mutual benefit – build a “Gila County Alliance” like the Pinal County Alliance

Create public - private partnerships to promote community goals & purposes

Create mutual benefit society - do together what we can't afford to do separately

Move back from residential to resource based property for tax & employment

Become self sustaining energy, water, resource sustainability

Build educational alliance with government, educators, business community

Create value-added businesses to capitalize on local resource utilizations

Local preference purchasing to offset high energy transportation costs

Capitalize on higher travel costs (energy) to get people from the “State” of Maricopa to visit Gila County instead of Europe Or Hawaii

WEAKNESSES

Lack of private property – land locked

Mismanagement of public lands – USFS, BLM, etc.

Isolation - geographically, politically, cultural, etc

Lack of infrastructure

Lack of economic diversity

Poor track record of conflict resolution

Perception and image of conflict in media

Stuck in “old ways” -- public difficulty of changing from the old guard to sharing power with newer move-ins

Statutory exclusion of mining property from local taxation

Lack of revenue base except private property taxes and sales taxes

Lack of state and national political clout

Lack of trained & employable workforce

Lack of affordable housing for critical service providers (teachers, nurses, firemen, policemen)

Lack of secure water rights for most communities

Lack of youth recreational activities tailored for today's youth

Need for vocational education to fit our communities

Community to community conflict

Aging population and expanding need for services for seniors

THREATS

Federal regulation –NEPA – unfunded federal mandates

Poor media image & perception

Fear of ethnics, cultures, new-comers

Current budget shortfalls