

IRON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

SEPTEMBER 2003

HOUSING

- ✘ Rentals & Condos with garages-off water
- ✘ Few moderately priced single-family homes
- ✘ Building inspector-county
- ✘ Ordinance enforcement coordination procedures
- ✘ Towns must bring problems to county
- ✘ Abandoned homes
- ✘ Blighted residential areas
- ✘ Location of mobile homes

UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- ✘ Lack convention center or place of lodging for gatherings
- ✘ Improve existing parks
- ✘ Lack of non-motorized trails
- ✘ Extending sanitary sewer/water services to towns
- ✘ Extension of sanitary sewer/water service into Hurley Industrial Park
- ✘ “Dead” spots for cellular phone services
- ✘ Lack of teen “hang out” places

TRANSPORTATION

- ✘ Hwy 51 – 4 lanes past Minoqua
- ✘ US 2 – more passing lanes from Hurley to Duluth
- ✘ Improve the county road system for future development
- ✘ Town road systems – all towns need to have 5 or 10-year road plans
- ✘ Snowmobile trails-try to develop family trails & try to keep the trails we have now
- ✘ Develop a good plan for snowmobile and ATV trails-get all trails off of all town roads
- ✘ Develop plans for walking, bicycling and skiing trails-look into grants
- ✘ Improve air service for Iron/Gogebic counties-along with runways
- ✘ Need a public bus service into and out of the county
- ✘ Bigger turn-off lanes on busy intersections and CTH's
- ✘ Poor signage and lighting at these intersections

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, & CULTURAL RESOURCES

(AGRICULTURE)

- ✘ Tapping maple trees on county, state, federal lands
- ✘ Reduction in farming
- ✘ Alternative farming
- ✘ Cranberry farming / wetland use
- ✘ Support farmers market, promote markets in other towns
- ✘ Nobody doing it!

(NATURAL RESOURCES)

- ✘ Sale of public lands
- ✘ Soil, water and shoreline protection of the Great Lakes
- ✘ Mining? No demand (prices too high)
- ✘ How do you project use of future resources?
- ✘ Access on public lands
- ✘ Water-level regulation
- ✘ Maintain water level on Gile Flowage
- ✘ Protect and improve both surface and ground water quality
- ✘ Lack of logging road network
- ✘ County does not tap into resources for better use of public lands

(CULTURAL RESOURCES)

- ✘ Business zoning
- ✘ Events (fair, Loon Days etc...) Preserve these as they are a part of our heritage
- ✘ Historic district preservation management (Flambeau Trail, mining history, City of Montreal and Hurley, museums-need support)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ✘ Annexation
- ✘ Lack of decent jobs and high wages
- ✘ In need of improvements to infrastructure (roads, utilities, telecommunications)
- ✘ Lack of small, light industry
- ✘ More stores in downtown areas and the renovation of some
- ✘ More emphasis on a better balance between tourism and businesses
- ✘ Not enough jobs
- ✘ Maintain character of Iron County (no fast-food restaurants)
- ✘ Lack of funds for advertising
- ✘ Grants should be pursued

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

- ✘ Equipment sharing - can towns and/or county share equipment?
- ✘ Enforcement of ordinances are passed on to other jurisdictions or departments
- ✘ When towns and/or county needs equipment they have to have their own
- ✘ Lack of efficient services
- ✘ Duplication of efforts

LAND USE

- ✘ Dealing with amount of lake frontage we have
- ✘ Declining revenues because of state purchasing land and taking tax base away
- ✘ State encouraging landowners to put in forest crop-tax burden is distributed to other property owners
- ✘ Restrictions being implemented will essentially condemn certain lands
- ✘ Effects of mineral mining (including gravel)
- ✘ Taxless lands due to abandoned gravel pits
- ✘ Lack of communication regarding the enforcement of zoning and other regulations between towns and county
- ✘ Too much development pressure in lake areas (sizes of lots)
- ✘ Recreational uses and easements
- ✘ Recreational trail system
- ✘ Fragmentation of ownership - minimum parcel size
- ✘ Maintain Northwoods character
- ✘ Don't have a plan in place that makes land use decisions defensible
- ✘ Keyholing and lake access
- ✘ ATV and snowmobile use on private property
- ✘ DNR stipulations on redevelopment of gravel pits
- ✘ Blighted areas-abandoned homes, buildings, lands etc.