

# Rio Dell Community Report



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## **Introduction**

In the spring of 2002, a group of researchers from Humboldt State University conducted a study on rural community life in Northern Humboldt County, California. The research was directed by Dr. Sheila Steinberg, Assistant Professor of Sociology, and included both graduate and undergraduate students from Humboldt State University. The goal of the study was to examine rural communities in an effort to identify local community strengths. The information in this report can aid in local economic and community development issues. Our project included secondary data, key informant interviews, and a questionnaire that was distributed to residents living in Rio Dell. This report focuses on the community of Rio Dell, California.

Located in Northern California, Rio Dell has a population of 3,174 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000) and is located about twenty miles south of Eureka on the Eel River. Rio Dell consists of a beautiful open prairie land protected by the large surrounding bluffs. The area is known its beautiful scenery and warm, sunny weather. Rio Dell is far enough away from the ocean that it does not encounter the fog and cool air that areas closer to the coast experience. Businesses line Wildwood Avenue, the city's mainstreet that spans the length of the town, and hosts the majority of local economic activity. The community is known for putting on Wildwood Days, an annual event that involves a rodeo, logging show, crafts, and food. The volunteer fire department and the chamber of commerce sponsor the event. Rio Dell has also been known for its participation in the local dairy, agriculture, and timber industries. Today, timber remains a main economic source despite recent layoffs by Pacific Lumber.

This report presents a variety of information related to the community of Rio Dell. First, a discussion is provided of secondary data (U.S. Census 2000), followed by key-informant interviews and survey data.

## **Population Characteristics**

Table 1 summarizes Rio Dell's sociodemographic population characteristics in comparison to Humboldt County.

**Table 1. Sociodemographic Profile 2000 of Rio Dell and Humboldt County**

|  | Humboldt County | Rio Dell |
|--|-----------------|----------|
| Population                                   | 126,518         | 3,174    |
| Male   | 62,532          | 1,576    |
| Female                                       | 63,986          | 1,598    |
| % 65 and over                                | 12.5            | 13.6     |
| % under 18                                   | 23.2            | 28.3     |
| % White                                      | 84.7            | 85.6     |
| % Black                                      | 0.9             | 0.2      |
| % American Indian and Alaska Native          | 5.7             | 3.9      |
| % Asian                                      | 1.7             | 0.4      |
| % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.2             | 0.0      |
| % Some Other Race                            | 2.4             | 5.7      |
| % Hispanic                                   | 6.5             | 10.8     |
| # Households                                 | 51,238          | 1,221    |
| # Family Households                          | 30,645          | 830      |
| Mean Household Income                        | \$29,822        | NA       |

Source: United States Bureau of the Census 2000

NA: Data not yet available for Census 2000

There are 1,221 household in Rio Dell, 830 of which are family households (see Table 1). Over one-quarter (28.3%) of Rio Dell's residents are under age 18 while there are a little under one-quarter (23.2%) of county residents under age 18. Rio Dell has a slightly higher percent of adults over the age of 65 at 13.6 percent and Humboldt County has 12.6 percent. The number of males and females in Rio Dell is about equal, at 1,598 and 1,576 respectively. Rio Dell's population consists of 85.6 percent White, which reflects the same pattern of Humboldt County's 84.7 percent White. The Latino population remains higher than Humboldt County with Rio Dell at 10.8 percent Latino

and Humboldt County having 6.5 percent. The history behind Rio Dell offers even more insight and information into this community.

### **Rio Dell Community History**

Known as Eagle Prairie until about 1860 (McCormick 1981), Rio Dell is located on the Eel River about twenty miles south of Eureka. As the town's former name suggests, it is a wide open prairie land with towering bluffs guarding the area. The town is located in a scenic setting, unique to Humboldt County. Rio Dell is set at a higher elevation than many of the county's coastal towns, which leads to a warmer climate. The Eel River runs between Rio Dell and its sister city, Scotia.

The Rio Dell bluffs and prairie land were discovered by settlers in the 1840s. American Indians had known about this beautiful country long before the arrival of these settlers. Although the Wiyot were there before the settlers, local government decided that they should move the Wiyot to a reservation in Hoopa in the 1860s (McCormick 1981). Lorenzo D. Painter, a farmer, founded the town in the early 1870s after purchasing land there (McCormick 1981). Painter named the community Rio Dell. Most settlers farmed, as did Painter. Many were dairy farmers and ranchers (McCormick 1965a). Rio Dell remained unincorporated until the mid 1960s (McCormick 1965a) and is considered the youngest town in Humboldt County (Lion 1990).

Rio Dell and Scotia have are historically two interdependent towns which share much of their history. Rio Dell's neighboring town Scotia is a company owned town, home to the Pacific Lumber Company, which has been a main source of employment for the cities. In 1863, Henry Weatherby and A. W. McPherson established the timber mill when they bought 6,000 acres (Rio Dell pamphlet cir. 1950). Today, Pacific Lumber owns the original timberlands that surround Rio Dell and Scotia and the amount of land far exceeds the original 6,000 acres. Pacific Lumber has been part of the mill since 1869 when it was incorporated as a timber investment company (McCormick 1981). Many Italian immigrants came in the early 1900s in an effort to secure jobs at the lumber mill (McCormick 1981). The Scotia mill has employed residents of Rio Dell since its establishment, and the tradition continues today. The Scotia mills have been noted as the main source of economy for Rio Dell, throughout history (Nelson 1973). As of December

2001, Pacific Lumber laid off 140 employees, which had a significant effect on the community.

Rio Dell is surrounded by the natural beauty of the trees and is set near the river, yet this setting offers its own hardships. In 1913 a major flood reached as high as 52 feet (McCormick 1965b). Until 1913, a ferry was the primary route across the river between the towns of Scotia and Rio Dell. After the enormous flood of 1913, a cable bridge was built and ready to use one year later in 1914. This was the same year the railroad started running through Scotia. This was a pivotal year as far as pathways and connections to outside communities for both Rio Dell and Scotia. In 1914, the bridge between the two towns offered a convenient method of travel from home and work. Additionally, the railroad offered more convenience to locals in receiving goods from out of the area. It seems however, that floods constantly threatened the bridge. In 1915 the bridge was consumed by rising waters, but was quickly rebuilt, illustrating the ingenuity and determination of local residents. This bridge lasted until 1937 when another flood took the bridge (McCormick 1965b). This time a pack of mules were brought in by freight in order to ensure a quick rebuilding.

Rio Dell's surrounding bluffs also contain ancient fossils that date as far back as 15 million years (McCormick 1981). Local earthquakes have played a role in uncovering many such fossils. Earthquakes began to be a recurring theme in 1954 when one shook the greater Fortuna area. Slides and rising waters have been a usual accompaniment to the earthquakes (McCormick 1981), such as in 1971. The landslide, although devastating, brought the community together in order to clear the railway with help from other workers outside the community (Staff 1971). Two floods hit Rio Dell again in 1974. Earthquakes, such as those in 1992 have also rocked the community creating \$18 to \$23 million in damage to the towns of Rio Dell and Scotia combined. Although the damages resulted in high costs for repairs to businesses, homes, and utility lines (Feldman 1992), community support helped the community to rebuild and recover quickly.

In the early 1970s, Rio Dell tried to create a local recreation center. While the local Lions Club donated the money for the center, the residents rallied together to prevent the center from being built (Staff 1972b). Even the youth of Rio Dell banded

together to raise money for a center that the youth could utilize (Staff 1972a). Today, Rio Dell has a community resource center (CRC) funded by a grant from the St. Joseph Hospital. The CRC is a partnership between ST. Joseph Health System-Humboldt County and the Rio Dell School District (Pieratt 2002). The community center works closely with Rio Dell citizens and is playing an active role in the many current community development projects.

Currently, the town has established two committees to improve the local area. “The Planning Together for Tomorrow Committee” and “The Community Pride Committee” are both current community development projects under way in the town. The former committee is focused on long term goals of working towards new community developments such as a town theme. The latter committee is focused on general community aesthetics that may in turn enhance community pride.

## **Methods**

Two main methods of research were utilized in the Rio Dell community study. This section provides a description of the different research methods employed in the project.

### **General Household Survey**

A general household survey was sent to residents who live within city limits. The sample for the household survey was selected from a residential parcel ownership list that originated from the Humboldt County Assessors office. The household survey was sent to individuals that were listed on the residential parcel ownership list who have a mailing address and parcel located within Rio Dell city limits.

The household survey consisted of 32 questions. The survey sought to measure respondents’ attitudes towards their community. The survey sought to measure respondents’ attitudes towards their community. The survey required approximately 15-25 minutes to complete. Respondents were provided with a postage paid return envelope to mail back their responses. In total, 155 surveys were completed. (See Tables 3-16 for further discussion).

### **Key-Informant Interviews**

Prior to developing a household survey, key-informant interviews were conducted with various community residents to identify major issues in Rio Dell. Key-informants



were asked about local social and economic issues, attitudes towards the community, and community strengths. In total, 11 key-informant interviews were conducted in Rio Dell (see Table 2 for occupational breakdown of key-informants). Using a snowball sampling technique, people were interviewed from local government, businesses, and educational sectors of the community. At the end of each interview, people were asked to suggest other members of the community are knowledgeable about local community issues. These individuals were then contacted, thus employing a snowball sampling technique. Key-informant interviews were conducted prior to developing a household survey in order to formulate relevant questions that fit the community. The various occupations of Rio Dell key-informants are summarized below in Table 2.

## **Data and Discussion**

A variety of data was collected as a part of this project. This section presents and discusses the various data collected. Key-informant interviews are discussed first followed by a discussion of survey data.

**Table 2. Rio Dell Key-Informant Occupations**

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| City Government              | 1  |
| Business Owners              | 4  |
| Community Development        | 1  |
| Pastor                       | 1  |
| Law Enforcement              | 1  |
| Education                    | 1  |
| Retired                      | 1  |
| Emergency Services Personnel | 1  |
| Total                        | 11 |

### **Community Development**

When asked about local community development efforts, 3 key-informants (27.3%) discussed the St. Joseph Community Resource Center (CRC). Key-informants reported that the CRC benefits the community because it helps with local job placement and also actively encourages community development. Another part of current development project is the Rio Dell beautification committee that is working to get funds

for a city gateway. The committee plans to spruce up the local downtown by building a sidewalk and painting storefronts. Even the application of a town theme is being considered by the committee.

Health care is an issue that was discussed by one key-informant (9.1%) as relating to community development. The Mobile Medical Clinic provides service all over Humboldt County and makes weekly stops in Rio Dell. This provides community members the opportunity to medical care in an area where there are few places to receive care.

From an environmental standpoint, water has been a major issue for Rio Dell citizens over the last few years. The wells dried up in 2002 leaving the town with few options but to temporarily pump water from the Eel River. One key-informant (9.1%) discussed how the water crisis and street repairs have been addressed over the last couple of years by the city in a positive manner.

### **Economics**

Before 1973, Highway 101 went right through Rio Dell's downtown. In 1973, a freeway bypass was installed. One key-informant (9.1%) explained that the bypass hurt Rio Dell economically. This change did improve the safety of the citizens, according to the informant, but the number of tourists who stopped at Rio Dell decreased. Al's Diner was another economic development issue discussed. One key-informant (9.1%) explained that the diner could be a positive attribute for the community bringing more economy to the town.

### **Community Success/Strengths**

Wildwood Days was discussed by three key-informants (27.3%) as a success. The annual event involves games for the family and kids as well as a barbecue. The event is sponsored by the Fire Department each year. The caring citizens of the community were also mentioned as being a local strength in the community by three (27.3%) of the citizens.

Additional community successes include memorial plaques mentioned by two key-informants (18.2%). The plaques commemorate deceased community members and this memorial was mentioned as a local success. Other strengths mentioned include the

local beauty of the area, the police department, the volunteer fire department, and the hardiness of Rio Dell residents.

### **Rio Dell Sample Description**

In total, 155 Rio Dell residents completed the survey. The sociodemographic characteristics of the Rio Dell respondents are summarized in Table 3.

**Table 3. Sociodemographic Characteristics of the 2002 Rio Dell Survey Sample**

| <b>Characteristic</b>             | <b>Sample</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Number of Respondents (N)*        | 155           |
| Mean Age                          | 56.1          |
| % White                           | 93.2          |
| % Latino                          | 2.0           |
| % Native American                 | 0.7           |
| % Asian                           | 0.7           |
| % Other Ethnicity                 | 3.4           |
| Mean Length of Residence in Years | 23.2          |
| % Female                          | 54.6          |
| % Male                            | 45.4          |
| % High School Graduates           | 25.2          |
| % College Graduate                | 13.9          |
| % Unemployed                      | 1.3           |
| % Retired                         | 38.4          |
| Mean Income                       | \$37,329.37   |

As Table 3 shows the mean age of respondents is 56 years old and the average length of residence among the Rio Dell respondents is 23.2 years. Over one-third (38.4%) reported being retired. A larger number of females completed our survey than did males at 54.6 percent and 45.4 percent respectively. One-quarter (25.2 %) of the Rio Dell respondents are high school graduates and 13.9% are college graduates. Slightly over one-third (38.4%) of the respondents are retired and only 1.3 percent reported being

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\* The letter N refers to the total number of respondents. In the following tables, N refers to the total number of respondents that answered that particular question.

unemployed. Two percent of respondents reported a Latino ethnicity and 93.2 reported White as their ethnicity

### **Community Interests**

Community interest was measured by asking respondents how interested they were in knowing what goes on in the community. As table 4 shows, most respondents were “somewhat interested” in their community.

**Table 4. Level of Community Interest N=155**

|                                     | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Very Interested                     | 45.2           |
| Somewhat Interested                 | 47.1           |
| Neither Interested or Disinterested | 5.2            |
| Somewhat Disinterested              | 1.3            |
| Very Disinterested                  | 1.3            |
| Total                               | 100.0          |

Almost one-half (47.1%) of the Rio Dell respondents reported being “somewhat interested” in knowing about what is going on in the community. Approximately another one-half (45.2%) reported being very interested in knowing what is going on locally. This only left a small percent that were somewhat disinterested and very disinterested at 1.3 percent each.

### **Social Ties**

Respondents were asked to identify how many adults they know in their community in order to measure local social ties. Table 5 displays the results of this question.

**Table 5. Number of Adults Rio Dell Respondents Know in the Community N=155**

|                | <b>Percent</b> |
|----------------|----------------|
| None           | 1.9            |
| Less Than Half | 78.1           |
| About Half     | 15.5           |
| Most           | 3.9            |
| All of Them    | 0.6            |
| Total          | 100.0          |

The majority of the respondents (78.1%) reported knowing less than half of the adults in their community (see Table 5). A very small number (0.6%) reported knowing all of the adults. Those who reported knowing about half of the adults in their community were 15.5 percent. This left 3.9 percent of respondents knowing most and 1.9 percent knowing none of the residents in the community.

### **Community Attitudes and Attachment**

Feeling and attitudes toward the community were measured with a series of eight statements that offered five responses: strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree. Table 6 summarizes how the responses regarding the community were answered.

**Table 6. Community Attitudes in Percentages**

| <b>Issue</b>   | <b>N</b> | <b>Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Agree</b> | <b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b> | <b>Disagree</b> | <b>Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|----------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| I belong to this community   | 152      | 25.7                  | 32.2         | 28.9                             | 7.9             | 5.3                      | 100.0        |
| When something needs to be done in comm. the whole neighborhood supports it. | 151      | 2.6                   | 19.9         | 43.0                             | 26.5            | 7.9                      | 100.0        |
| I am satisfied with my community.  | 148      | 5.4                   | 22.3         | 24.3                             | 31.1            | 16.9                     | 100.0        |
| My community is changing for the better.                                     | 149      | 8.7                   | 33.6         | 29.5                             | 16.8            | 11.4                     | 100.0        |
| Newcomers are welcome in my community.                                       | 149      | 16.8                  | 45.6         | 26.2                             | 6.7             | 4.7                      | 100.0        |
| I am concerned about the future of my community.                             | 144      | 38.2                  | 42.4         | 15.3                             | 2.1             | 2.1                      | 100.0        |
| My community provides good work opportunities for young people.              | 149      | 0.7                   | 0            | 6.0                              | 33.6            | 59.7                     | 100.0        |
| My community provides good economic opportunities for me.                    | 147      | 2.7                   | 3.4          | 21.1                             | 27.2            | 45.6                     | 100.0        |

One-third (31.1%) of the respondents reported they are not satisfied with their community. About one-quarter (24.3%) reported that they neither agree nor disagree, meaning they had a neutral opinion regarding community satisfaction. Slightly over one-fifth (22.3%) reported that they agree that they are “satisfied with the community” and 5.4 percent reported that they strongly agree.

More respondents reported that they “belong” to this community than reported satisfaction. The majority of respondents (32.2%) agreed that indeed, they do belong to the community of Rio Dell. As many as one-quarter (25.7%) strongly agreed that they belong to the community. Similarly, most respondents (45.6%) reported that newcomers are welcome in their community by agreeing with the statement listed above and 16.8 percent strongly agreed that newcomers are welcome in their community.

Respondents did not feel that work opportunities were readily available in Rio Dell. Over one-half (59.7%) strongly disagreed with the statement “my community provides good work opportunities for young people.” Respondents reported that their community does not provide good work experience for young people, with only a few (0.7%) felt Rio Dell does provide good work experience for youth. Respondents felt similarly about the economic opportunities available for themselves in the community. Almost one-half (45.6%) reported that they strongly disagreed with the statement “my community provides good economic opportunities for me.” Almost one-third (27.2%) reported that they did not feel their community provides good economic opportunities for them.

### **Community Involvement**

Rio Dell respondents displayed that community members do participate in groups and organizations. Tables 7 and 8 summarize how many respondents participated in groups/organizations as well as how much time is being devoted to group and/or organizational participation.

**Table 7. Participation in Groups/Organizations N=155**

|   | <b>Percent</b> |
|---|----------------|
| Belong to a group or organization           | 36.1           |
| Do not belonging to a group or organization | 63.9           |
| Total                                       | 100.0          |

**Table 8. Time Spent in Groups/Organizations N=64**

| <b># of Hours Participating</b> | <b>% of Sample</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| More than 10 hours per month    | 43.8               |
| 5-10 hours per month            | 32.8               |
| 1-4 hours per month             | 15.6               |
| Less than 1 hour per month      | 7.8                |
| Total                           | 100.0              |

Over one-third (36.1%) of the respondents reported belonging to a group or organization. The majority of those who do participate (43.8%) reported spending over ten hours each month. One-third (32.8%) reported they spend between 5 and 10 hours each month involved with a group or organization. Of those who reported participation, only 7.8 percent reported spending less than one hour per month. This shows the Rio Dell respondents who do participate in local organizations devote a great deal of time to their organizations.

### **Community Issues**

Respondents were asked to choose from a list the important issues for their community. As many as seven issues could be identified. Table 9 displays how many respondents felt that each issue was important to the community.

**Table 9. Community Issues N=153**

| <b>Issue</b>               | <b>Percent</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Health Care                | 38.6           |
| Water Quality/Availability | 79.7           |
| Jobs for Local Residents   | 81.7           |
| Youth                      | 59.5           |
| Crime                      | 44.4           |
| Poverty                    | 59.5           |

\* Percent total do not equal 100 percent. Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one issue.

The most commonly reported issue was jobs for local residents, which was reported by over eighty percent (81.7%) of respondents. Jobs are clearly considered an issue among respondents. Almost as many (79.7%) reported that water quality and availability is another important current local issue. Poverty and youth were both reported by over one-half of the respondents (59.5%) as other important issues for Rio Dell.

### **Community Strengths**

Two questions on the household survey asked directly about community strengths. The first question simply asked whether community respondents felt that their community possessed strengths while the following question asked respondents to describe what types of strengths exist in the community. Table 10 summarizes the results of these questions.

**Table 10. Community Strengths** **N=144**

|                                  | <b>Percent</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Rio Dell has strengths           | 52.8           |
| Rio Dell does not have strengths | 47.2           |
| Total                            | 100.0          |

  

| <b>Type of Strength</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Size of Community       | 21.3           |
| Community Involvement   | 10.7           |
| Community Cohesion      | 25.3           |
| Community Support       | 10.7           |
| Beauty                  | 25.3           |
| Weather                 | 16.0           |

\* Percent totals do not equal 100 percent. Respondents were given the opportunity to list more than one strength.

Over one-half (52.8%) reported that the community of Rio Dell has strengths. The most common strengths listed were beauty (25.3%) and community cohesion (25.3%). Respondents described community cohesion in several ways. Examples of responses that were categorized as cohesion include a sense of closeness, having a tight



knit community, friendly neighbors, and community pride among other responses. The size of the community was also listed as a strength among 21.3 percent of respondents.

### **Neighborhood and Heart of the Community**

On the survey respondents were provided a map of their community and asked to mark what they considered to be the heart of the community and their neighborhood on the map. Three regions were defined, in specific commercial, residential, and rural. The commercial region consists of clusters of commercial developments such as, businesses, public administration buildings, restaurants, shops, and other non-residential developments. The residential region consists of clusters of housing developments and other non-commercial developments such as schools and community centers. Finally, rural regions consist of sparsely developed areas with open space, often towards the outskirts of the community. Rural regions were designated as any location outside of the residential region. Table 11 shows how respondents marked their neighborhood and the heart of the community.

**Table 11. Neighborhood and Heart of the Community in Percentages**

|                        | <b>N</b> | <b>Commercial<br/>Region</b> | <b>Residential<br/>Region</b> | <b>Rural<br/>Region</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Neighborhood           | 114      | 6.1                          | 90.4                          | 3.5                     | 100.0        |
| Heart of the Community | 113      | 59.3                         | 38.9                          | 1.8                     | 100.0        |

An overwhelming majority (90.4%) reported living in the residential region of Rio Dell. This was followed by 6.1 percent who reported living in the commercial region and 3.5 percent who reported living in the rural region. Over one-half (59.3%) reported that the heart of the community lies in the commercial area of town. As many as one-third (38.9%) reported that the residential region is where the heart of the community lies; many respondents marked the school and Community Resource Center as the heart of the community.

## Immigrants

Two survey questions were asked regarding immigrants in the community. The first asked whether immigrants play a role in the community and the second asked respondents to describe what kind of role immigrants' play. Table 12 displays how these questions were answered.

**Table 12. Immigrants Rio Dell**

| <b>N=135</b>  | <b>Percent</b> |
|---|----------------|
| Immigrants do not play a role in community                | 59.3           |
| Immigrants play a role in the community                   | 40.7           |
| Total   | 100.0          |
| <br><b>N=79</b>   |                |
| Immigrants do not play a role working in local businesses | 77.2           |
| Immigrants play an important role in local businesses     | 22.8           |
| Total   | 100.0          |

Just under one-half (40.7%) reported that immigrants play a role in the community (see Table 12). This left over one-half (59.3%) reported that immigrants do not play a role in the community. Almost one-quarter (22.8%) of Rio Dell respondents that reported immigrants do not play a role in local businesses. Immigrants were noted as being local consumers and working in local businesses in Rio Dell.

## Computer Use

Table 13 summarizes how many respondents reported using a computer and what respondents are using their computer for.

**Table 13. Computer and Internet Use N=151**

|                         | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Use a computer          | 65.6           |
| Do not using a computer | 34.4           |
| Total                   | 100.0          |

  

| <b>Internet Use</b>          | <b>N=94</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Travel Information           |             | 66.0           |
| Data Collection              |             | 64.9           |
| Chat with Friends and Family |             | 57.4           |
| News                         |             | 45.7           |
| Job search                   |             | 24.5           |
| Meet new people              |             | 8.5            |

\* Percent total does not equal 100 percent. Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one Internet use.

Over one-half (65.6%) of the respondents reported using a computer (see Table 13). Internet uses were listed and respondents could pick any that applied to their experience. Travel information was the most common Internet use reported by 66 percent. Data collection was also reported by over one-half of respondents (64.9%) as well as chatting with friends and family (57.4%). Overall, computers were being utilized and respondents employed several different Internet uses.

### **Area of Work**

Respondents reported several different types of job experiences. Several respondents reported multiple areas of work experience, displaying more than one employment situation. Table 14 summarizes the different types of jobs held by Rio Dell respondents.

**Table 14. Job Experience** **N=149**

| <b>Job</b>   | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dairy        | 3             | 2.0            |
| Timber       | 21            | 14.1           |
| Government   | 9             | 6.0            |
| Education    | 17            | 11.4           |
| Clerical     | 21            | 14.1           |
| Retail       | 22            | 14.8           |
| Construction | 13            | 8.7            |
| Service      | 17            | 11.4           |
| Professional | 25            | 13.8           |
| Other        | 43            | 28.9           |

\*Percent totals and number totals do not equal 100 percent. Respondents were provided the opportunity pick more than one job

Retail was noted as the most common type of work at 14.8 percent. This was followed by timber and clerical at 14.1 percent for each. The “other” category was the most frequent response, noted by 28.9 percent. Such a variety of responses illustrate that diverse jobs are held by Rio Dell respondents.

### **Skills**

The majority of respondents (66.2%) reported that they possess skills that would benefit the community. As Table 15 illustrates, Rio Dell respondents have skills to offer their community.

**Table 15. Skills N=142**

|  | <b>Percent</b> |
|--|----------------|
| Have a skill that would benefit the community        | 66.2           |
| Do not have a skill that would benefit the community | 33.8           |
| Total  | 100.0          |

| <b>Type of Skill</b>  | <b>N=91</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Working with Children |             | 51.6           |
| Gardening             |             | 54.9           |
| Wood Working          |             | 25.3           |
| Home Maintenance      |             | 39.6           |

\* Percent totals do not equal 100 percent. Respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one skill.

The most common skill respondents reported was gardening (54.9%), followed closely by working with children (51.6%), and home maintenance (39.6%). One-quarter (25.3%) reported wood working as a skill the community would benefit from as well.

### **Hobbies and Interests**

Respondents listed several hobbies and interests. The question was designed so that as many answers could be listed as the respondent desired. Table 16 summarizes the results.

**Table 16. Hobbies and Interests**

| <b>Hobby/interest</b> | <b>N=133</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Sports Recreation     |              | 36.1           |
| Gardening             |              | 42.9           |
| Arts/Crafts           |              | 29.3           |
| Reading               |              | 17.3           |
| Traveling             |              | 11.3           |
| Family                |              | 16.5           |
| Cooking               |              | 3.8            |
| Nature                |              | 11.3           |
| Music                 |              | 4.5            |
| Religion              |              | 7.5            |
| Movies and Television |              | 2.3            |

\* Percent total do not equal 100 percent. Respondents were given the opportunity to list more than one hobby/interest.

Again, gardening was most common with nearly one-half (42.9%) reporting this hobby as listed as a skill. The second most common category was sports recreation with 36.1 percent reporting these types of activities. Sports recreation, such as hiking, biking, fishing, swimming, backpacking and hunting were among some of the sports recreation hobbies/interests that individuals reported. Arts and crafts was another broad category that includes several activities, for example decorating, photography, sewing, painting, writing, and flower arranging were considered an art/craft for this category. Close to one-third (29.3%) reported an art or craft as a hobby.

### **Conclusion**

The timber industry has been an integral part of Rio Dell's local community. More recently, however the community appears to be experiencing an economic transition. Other noted transitions include the presence of Latino immigrants who have become important to local businesses in the area, as consumers, employees, and owners.

Many skills were reported by respondents, illustrating that individuals in Rio Dell possess skills and resources that are vital to the community. At present, moderate levels of community participation exist, yet the potential exists for greater community

involvement. Also, presently, moderate levels of social capital and human capital exist. Social capital refers to social networks and connections. Community support was often reported (25.3%) by respondents as a strength as well as community cohesion (25.3%), which illustrate social capital. Human capital refers to skills and abilities. Respondents listed skills such as gardening, working with children, and home maintenance as skills that are evidence of human capital. As many as 65.6 percent of respondents reported using computers, another important skill.

Overall, respondents reported substantial levels of community involvement, which could be increased by involving community members through harnessing local skills and interests. Thus, the social and human capital displayed by respondents has the potential to increase. Developing programs that draw upon residents' existing skills and abilities could further enhance levels of community involvement. The CRC has been a bright light so far in local community development efforts for the community of Rio Dell.

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