



# Energy Fact Sheet

## Garfield County's Socioeconomic Impact Study

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### Key Message

- In 2005, Garfield County developed an interactive tool that analyzes data and projects socioeconomic changes 25 years into the future.

### Project Objectives

- Develop a model that captures Garfield County's economic and demographic relationships.
- Calibrate the model with key linkages and assumptions.
- Communicate the findings and results.
- Provide staff to maintain the model.
- Provide the forecast data to County officials.
- Note: The impact of oil shale extraction was not built into the model, but natural gas production was included.

### The Model Forecasts:

- County-wide population by age and gender.
- Municipal and nearby area populations.
- School district enrollment.
- Limited English proficiency populations by age range.
- Populations by one-square-mile grid cells.
- Employment by sector.
- Employee earnings and income per capita.
- Outcommuting by destination.

(continued...)

### **Key Findings:**

- Lack of housing is the largest issue facing Garfield County.
- There is limited land on which to build. This means growth must extend down-valley to Rifle and beyond and up-valley to Eagle and beyond.
- Land values have escalated 26 percent in the past year.
- The population in the county is expected to grow significantly. The county's current population is 54,000. The model projects that number to increase to 150,000 by 2030.

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