

2.0 TECHNICAL APPROACH

2.1 Data Collection

Data sources used to define the baseline social and economic conditions in the PRB included local, state, and federal government publications, internet data searches and downloads, interviews with state and local officials, and information gleaned from newspaper clippings and other historical archives housed at the Campbell County Public Library and Gillette Community Development Department.

Key sources of published information presented in this report include the following.

- BLM
- Campbell County
- Campbell County School District #1
- City of Gillette
- Sonoran Institute
- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service
- U.S. Minerals Management Service
- Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, Economic Analysis Division
- Wyoming Department of Education
- Wyoming Department of Employment
- Wyoming Department of Revenue
- Wyoming Department of State Lands and Investments
- Wyoming Mining Association
- Wyoming Office of the State Inspector of Mines
- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Wyoming School Facilities Commission
- Wyoming Taxpayers Association

2.2 Modeling Assumptions and Methods

Detailed economic, demographic, and fiscal modeling was not completed as part of this (Task 1) report, as the report focuses on reviews of major historical trends and data describing current conditions in the PRB. Detailed modeling will be conducted as part of the impact analysis for the Task 3 report. The key inputs for that modeling effort will be derived from the reasonably foreseeable development scenario(s) developed for the Task 2 report, and assumptions developed from contacts with industry, local government officials, and reviews of other studies.

2.0 Technical Approach

2.3 Analysis

Data collection, compilation, and analysis efforts reflect the geographic location and concentration of coal mining in the study area, with the primary focus on Campbell County and a lesser emphasis on the surrounding counties. Quantitative techniques used to analyze historical trends and current conditions in this report include basic descriptive and comparative statistics (e.g., means, percent change, and compounded annual growth rates). Important time series and comparative data at selected intervals are portrayed graphically to help illustrate differences among the PRB counties or to highlight changes over time. The time periods analyzed in this report vary by topic, reflecting the availability of data (e.g., detailed demographic data available only from the decennial censuses of population but annual employment and income data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis). Annual data are reported for the past 3 to 5 years for selected critical variables that are responsive to changes in economic conditions. Qualitative analysis, reflecting a combination of content analysis and the integration and synthesis of information gained through direct observation, key interviews, and literature review, was used where appropriate. Monetary and fiscal data, personal income, and annual severance taxes on coal production, for instance, generally are reported in nominal terms. In other words, the monetary data are presented in amounts corresponding to those at the time the sale, expenditure, tax event, or income accrual occurred. Data for some monetary and fiscal parameters also are reported in inflation adjusted terms, using a 2003 base year. Inflation adjusted dollars, sometimes also referred to as “real” dollars, can facilitate the analysis of changing trends and patterns that are not as readily apparent when expressed in nominal terms. Unless otherwise noted, monetarily-denominated data in this report are presented in nominal terms. Inflation adjusted data are presented in “real” terms or as 2003 constant dollars. Conversions from nominal to 2003 constant dollars are based on the annual consumer price index for urban wage earners from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The index values for that series are shown in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1
Price Adjustment Index, Nominal to 2003 Constant Dollars

Year	Value	Year	Value	Year	Value	Year	Value
1969	4.8780	1978	2.7424	1987	1.5988	1996	1.1666
1970	4.6053	1979	2.4603	1988	1.5373	1997	1.1413
1971	4.4155	1980	2.1680	1989	1.4666	1998	1.1262
1972	4.2745	1981	1.9669	1990	1.3933	1999	1.1016
1973	4.0240	1982	1.8559	1991	1.3393	2000	1.0646
1974	3.6263	1983	1.8009	1992	1.3016	2001	1.0364
1975	3.3226	1984	1.7412	1993	1.2659	2002	1.0223
1976	3.1413	1985	1.6816	1994	1.2347	2003	1.0000
1977	2.9510	1986	1.6562	1995	1.2006	2004	0.9790