

North Central Montana Communities

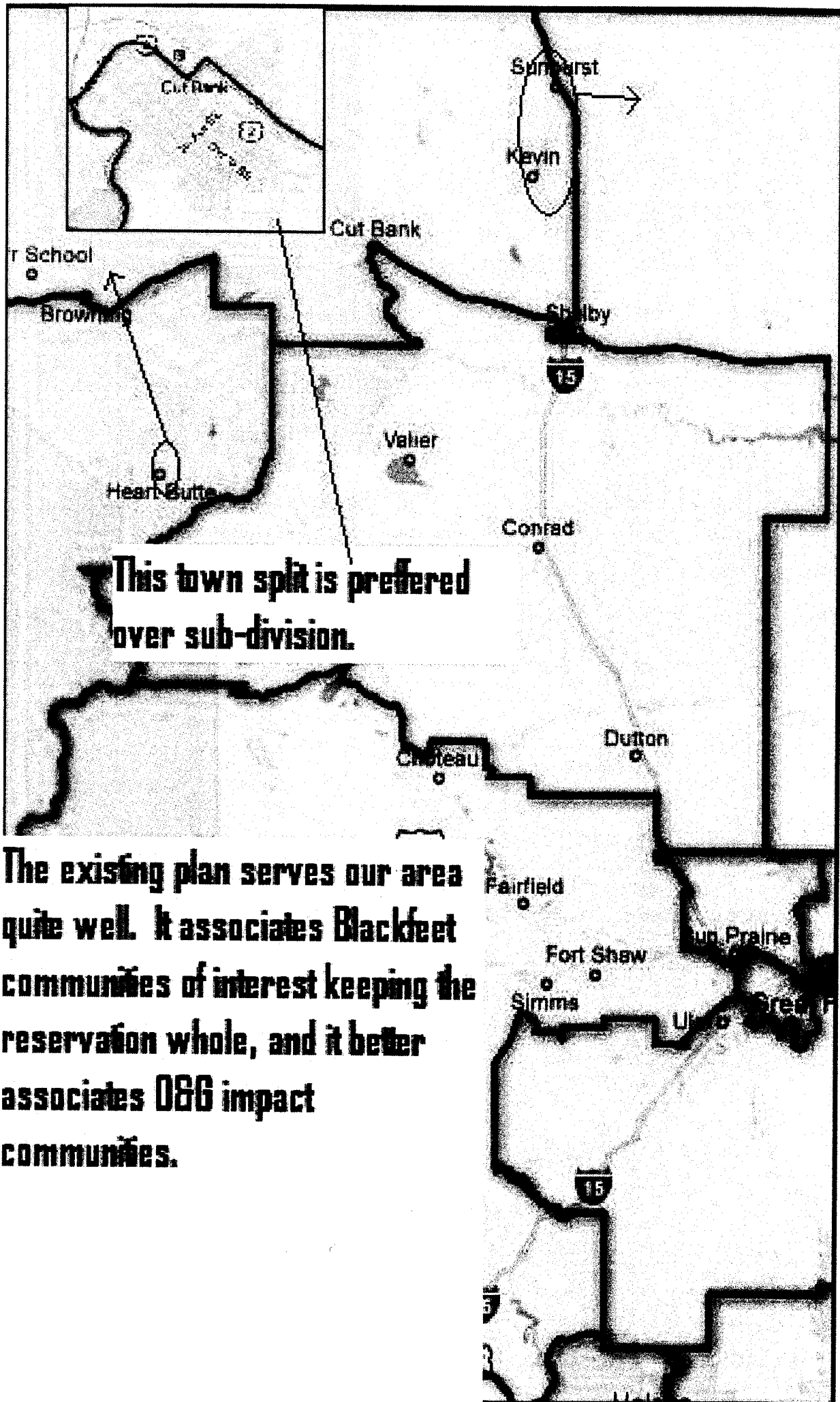
1. The preference of these communities is that, to the extent possible they are not split apart within community borders, and that they remain associated with like social-economic groups. The association caused by the existing districts has worked favorably in this area, and still is viewed favorably. The Existing map works well for the area generally. With adjustments, variations of others do O.K.
2. The impending oil boom that is just beginning in this region of the state and needs to be factored into the equation. Shelby Montana, with its large rail hub, private prison, and rail port operations is one of the largest area employers, in particular for the Cut Bank, Conrad, Valier, and Chester communities. To the extent possible these communities have very similar concerns and socio-economic bases. It is also the current epicenter for development. Their representation requirements are similar.
3. At a large meeting via the Cut Bank Chamber, it was noted that **the preference of CTB is that their community not be linked to the west** across the Federal Blackfeet Indian Reservation border as this would be akin to linking the community to the north across the Canadian Border and would not give them effective representation. The issues, challenges, and funding sources are very different from one side of a federal border to another. Cut Banks issues and representation needs are very much aligned with Shelby and Conrad. **Urban-Rural does put CTB east as preferred; existing is a similar split as of today and thus preferred** as it tends to be a split that better represents the cultural division, sub-division, on the other hand, splits Cut bank exactly opposite of representation needs.
4. Valier has a similar argument as CTB, in particular with Urban-Rural as it links Valier west across the federal border. One of the significant upcoming issues of the future will be the Blackfeet Water Compact, and thus making sure that both the Blackfeet area and the Valier-Pondera Canal Irrigation area have effective representation voice will be crucial. **Valier's preference is to go East or South.** As part of Pondera County, Valier is best represented via the existing map, whereas urban rural links Valier across the Federal Boundary.
5. Hear Butte is part of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. It would seem logical that Heart Butte link with fellow Blackfeet, and not link across the continental divide over the Rocky Mountains.
6. A significant portion of the Conrad Community travels to Shelby for employment, and ships much of its Ag production base, including much of the 80,000 acres irrigated through Shelby. Shelby and Valier share a health clinic. There is a natural linkage between Shelby and Conrad via the I-15 corridor. Shelby and Conrad are further linked through the North Central Montana Regional Water System concerns and impacts. Shelby, Conrad, and Cut bank are all part of a tri-city inter-local equipment sharing agreement. **Thus Conrad's socio-economic are such that it is best represented when it is linked north as a whole community as in the existing Map, sub-division map, or as can be with the Urban-Rural via a slight redraw.**
7. If a community is to be split apart as in the Urban Rural Example, then the request is that the local mayor, commissioners, and representatives be spoken with in order to choose a line that best represents the communities.

Cynthia Johnson

- a. For example, in the urban rural map, Conrad is split such with a little thumb of what is effectively a Teton County District sticks up into Pondera county and slices out the Pondera County Court House into the Teton District. Simply redoing the split slightly would facilitate the Court House being located in the House District that contains the majority of the county.
- b. Again, while no split is preferred, redoing the split would also work to associate the school districts better...Brady School District is currently going to Teton in Dutton, as is areas of Conrad East. Thus this split as drawn here is much preferred over the one in the map. Given there has just been a court case over this issue, and there is still some angst here, better representation exists when these concerns are factored in.

Summary:

1. Existing is fine, prefer Kevin and Sunburst move east and Heart Butte joins with Browning.
2. Sub-Division sucks for Cut Bank, has Valier with Choteau, and leaves out Augusta to the south.
3. Urban Rural puts cuts Conrad out of Pondera County representation, while leaving most of the Brady-Dutton (Teton School District) in. It would be OK if the lines were redrawn in Conrad and in the Brady area.
4. Deviation is poor, simply does not represent communities of interest well.
5. If communities such as Conrad and Cut Bank are to be split, then there needs to be contact with the local residents so that the splits reflect such concerns as leaving the Court House in the district that has the majority of the county, school district divisions, and tribal representation.



This town split is preferred over sub-division.

The existing plan serves our area quite well. It associates Blackfeet communities of interest keeping the reservation whole, and it better associates O&G impact communities.

Urban Rural Overview
Community Relocations

HS School

Browning

Heart Butte is part of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Geographically the Rocky Mountians are an incredible barrier to linking west, plus their culture is more aligned with Browning.

Heart Butte

The Valier Community and The Pondera Canal company, due to the Blackfeet Water Compact negotiations, are not well represented by being placed in the same House District.

Conrad

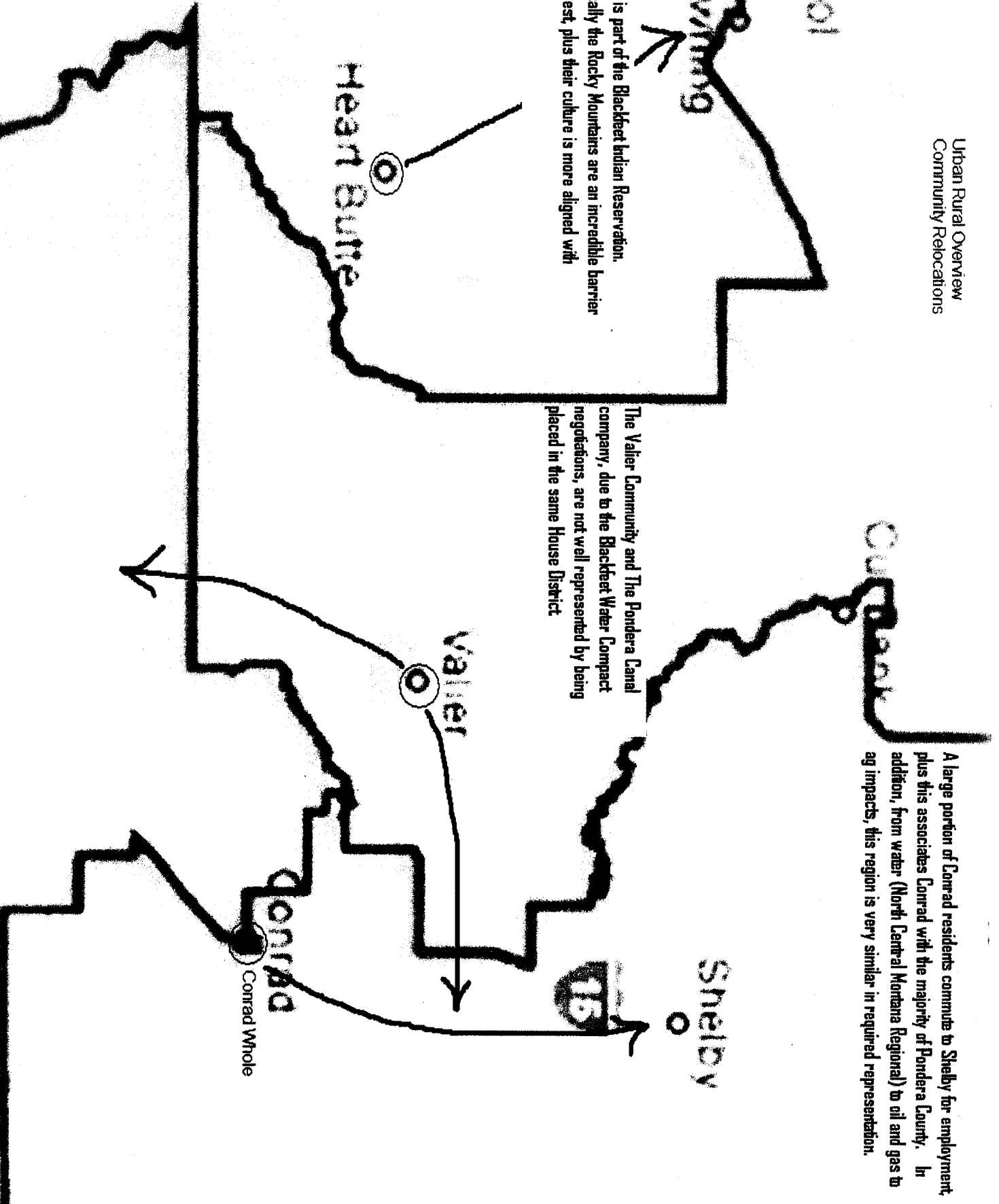
Valier

Shelby

A large portion of Conrad residents commute to Shelby for employment, plus this associates Conrad with the majority of Pondera County. In addition, from water (North Central Montana Regional) to oil and gas to ag impacts, this region is very similar in required representation.

CONRAD

Conrad Whole

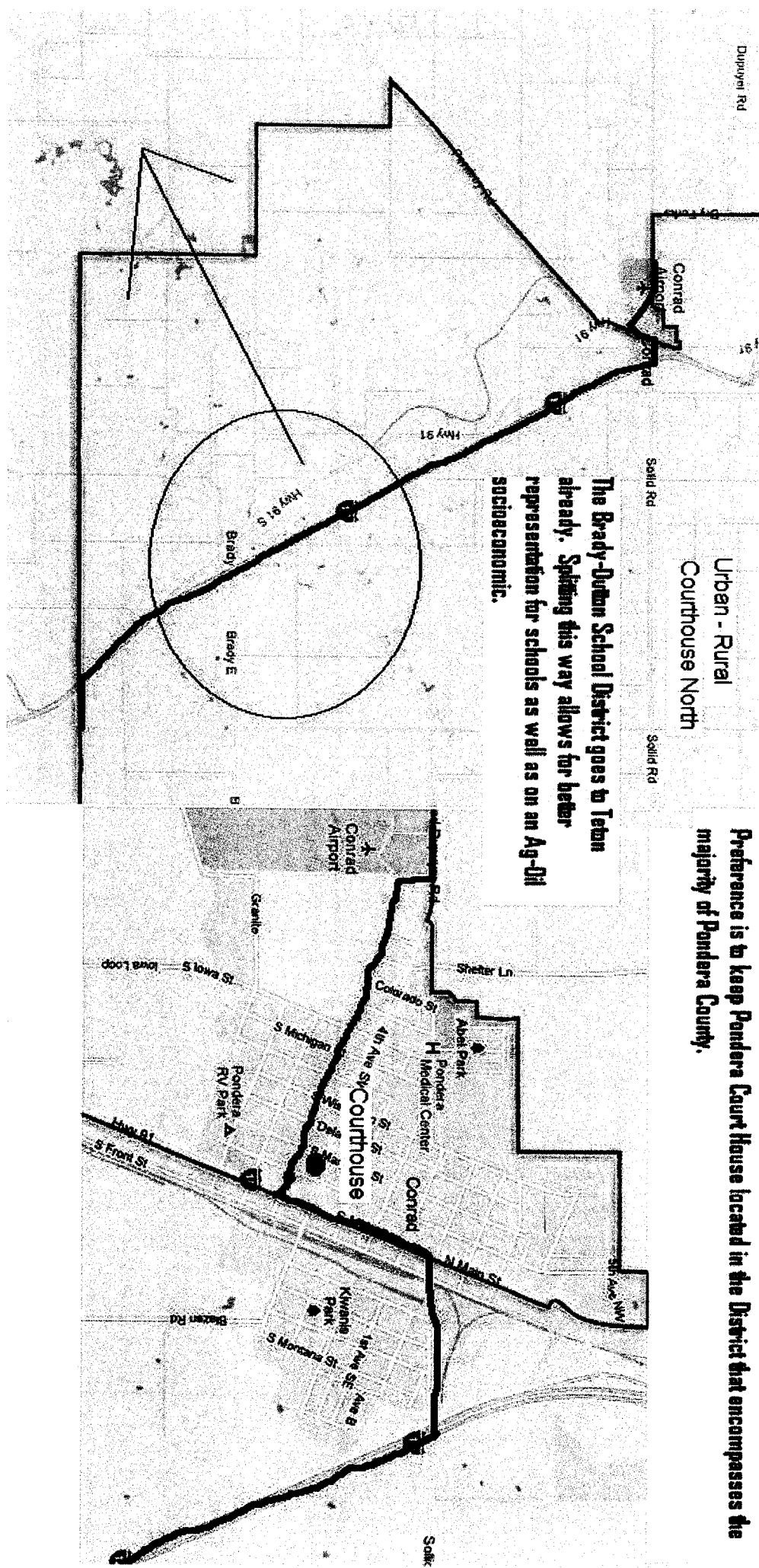


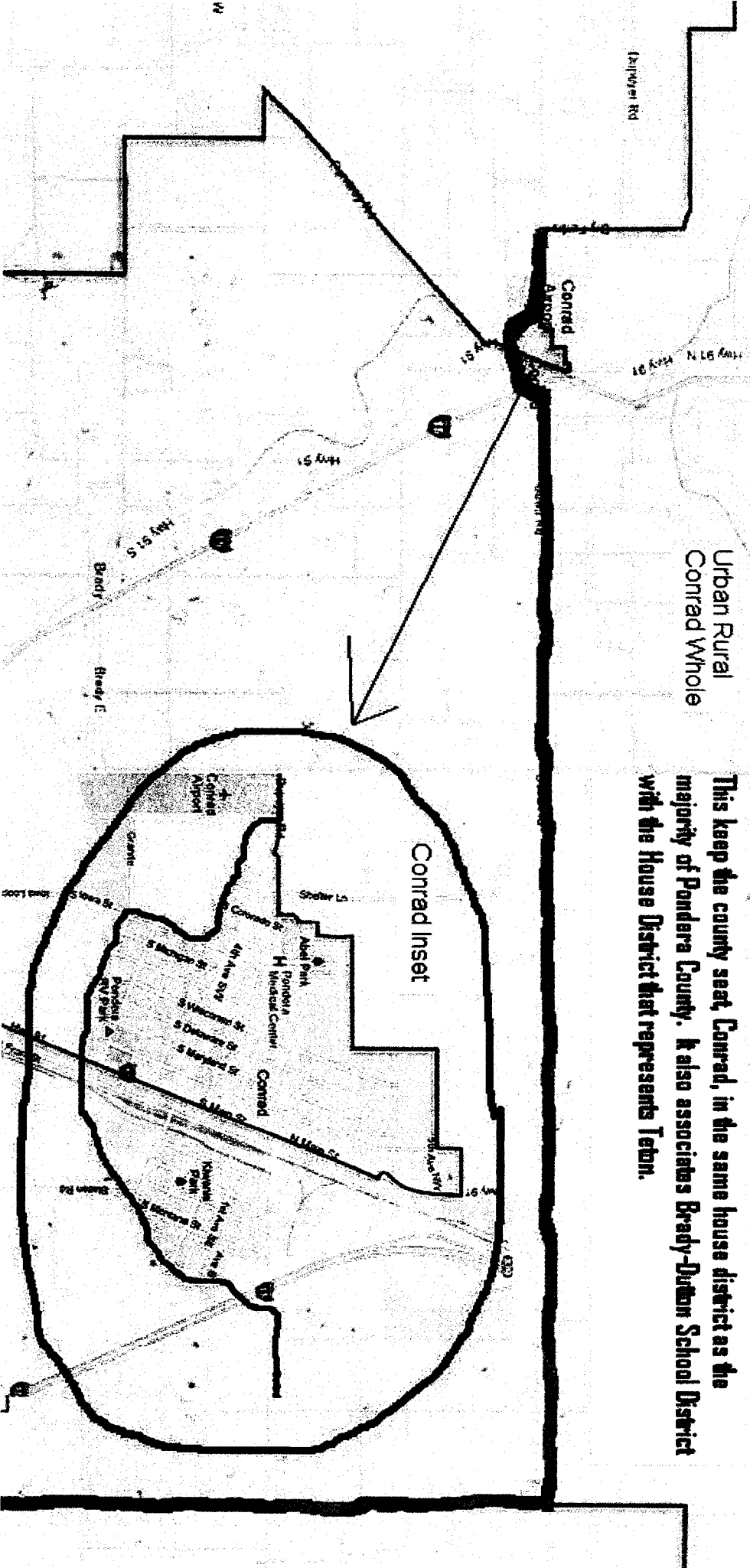
Dupuy Rd

Urban - Rural
Courthouse North

Preference is to keep Pondera Court House located in the District that encompasses the majority of Pondera County.

The Brady-Dutton School District goes to Teton already. Splitting this way allows for better representation for schools as well as on an Ag-Oil socioeconomic.





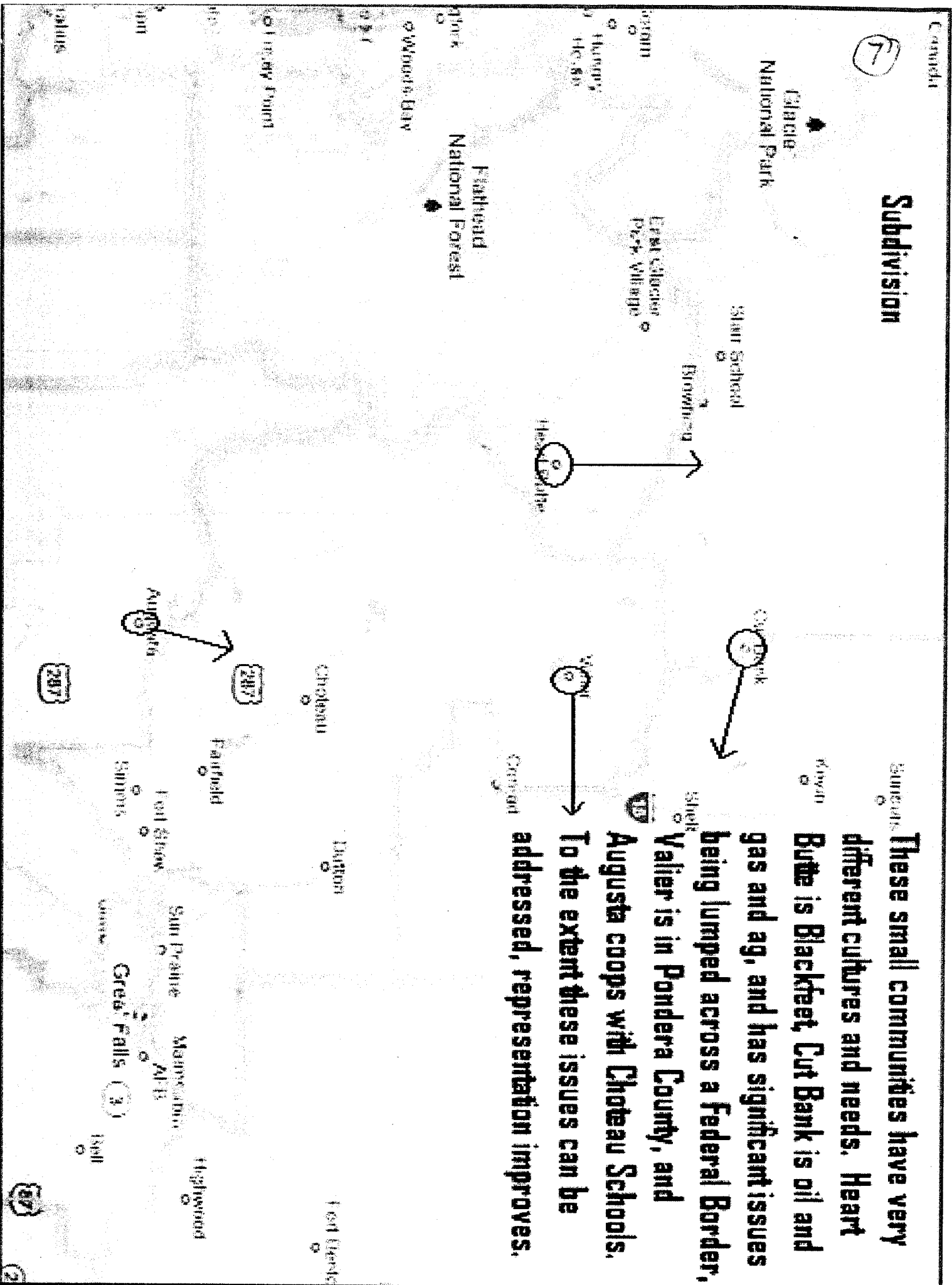
Urban Rural
 Conrad Whole

This keep the county seat, Conrad, in the same house district as the majority of Pondera County. It also associates Brady-Dutton School District with the House District that represents Teton.

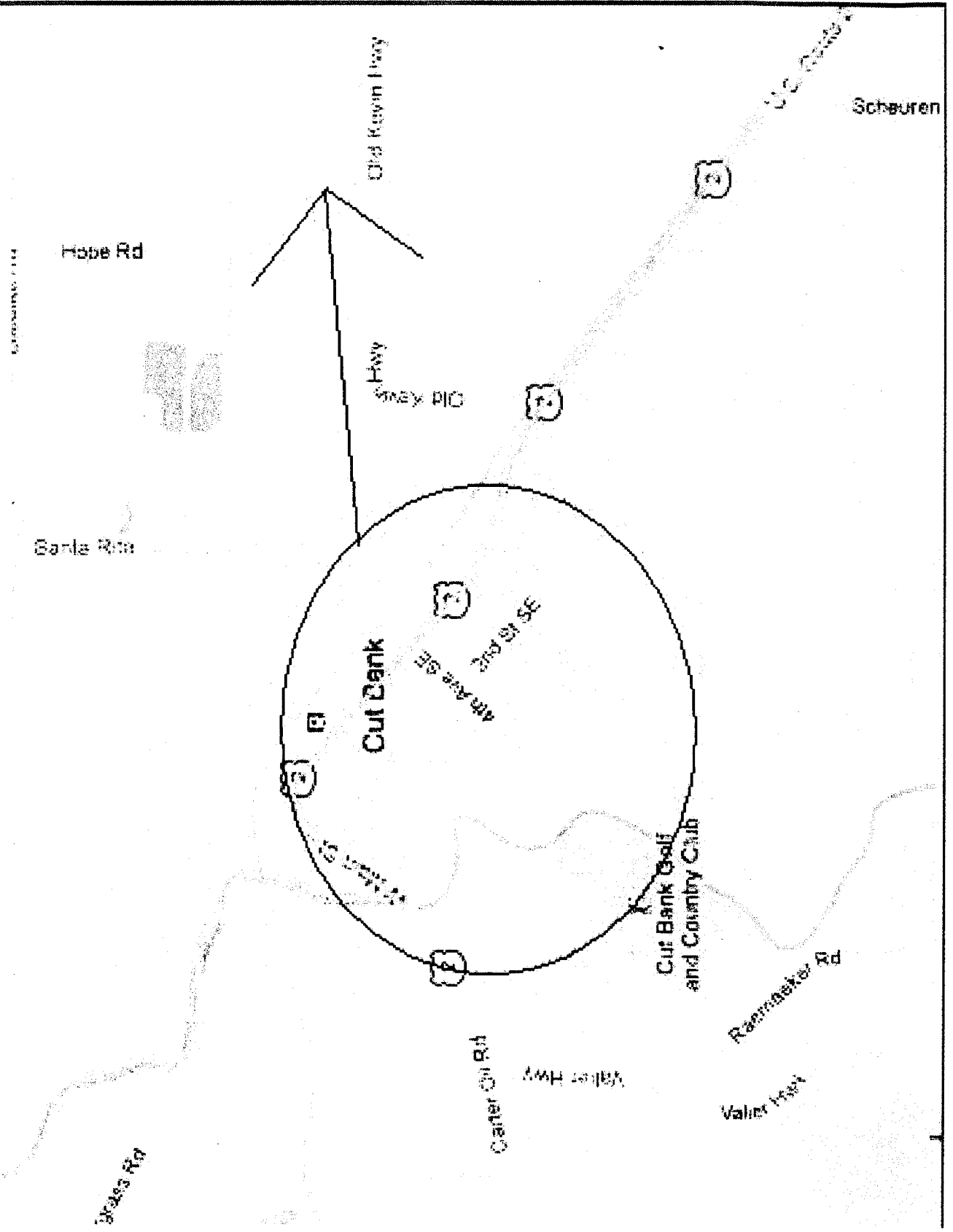
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Subdivision

These small communities have very different cultures and needs. Heart Butte is Blackfeet, Cut Bank is oil and gas and ag, and has significant issues being lumped across a Federal Border. Valer is in Pondera County, and Augusta coops with Choteau Schools. To the extent these issues can be addressed, representation improves.



Sub-Div, Split is not well designed for CTB as links them across a Federal Border and does not clearly reflect socio-economic concerns in particular with upcoming oil impacts.



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

April 18, 2012 Hearing, Great Falls, Montana

My name is Stan Juneau. I cannot be in Browning tomorrow so I want to thank you for the opportunity to present my support for the Community Plan of the State of Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission today in Great falls. My written testimony contains some history of Indian voting discrimination in Montana prior to 1972, but in the interest of time my public testimony will focus on the post 1972 Constitution and Communities of Interest.

- **The category I would like to address the Districting and Apportionment Commissions goals for receiving comments for the following:** *Keeping communities of interest intact. The Commission will consider keeping communities of interest intact. Communities of interest can be based on Indian reservations, urban interests, suburban interests, rural interests, neighborhoods, trade areas, geographic location, communication and transportation networks, media markets, social, cultural and economic interests, or occupations and lifestyles.*

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: I WILL DISCUSS SENATE DISTRICT EIGHT WHICH I WAS A REGISTERED VOTER FOR MANY YEARS:

Because of changes in population, the proposed Senate District Eight in the Communities Plan is still similar to the current senate district because no plan leaves the district exactly the same, and the Communities Plan for Senate District Eight still has the shared Blackfeet AND Flathead senate district. I want to be clear that I am not asking the Commission to keep Senate District 8 boundaries exactly the same, but I want to see a similar configuration with a shared Blackfeet/Flathead senate district.

I believe the Communities Plan best meets the criteria for keeping communities of interest intact. Glacier National Park is located in the middle of Senate District Eight and it certainly has a common history of use by both the Blackfeet Tribe and the Flathead Tribe. One of the more significant religious sites common to both tribes is Chief Mountain. "There are many historic legends regarding this mountain, the most popular being that of the young Flathead Indian brave who spent several days upon the top of the peak searching for his "medicine vision" and using a bison skull for a pillow. When Henry L. Simpson, later Secretary of State, and his companions first climbed to the top of this mountain in 1892, they were probably the first white men to do so. There they found an ancient bison skull almost entirely decomposed, giving considerable authenticity to this popular legend." (Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center, National Park Service, U. S. Department of Interior).

Chief Mountain is a place where particularly powerful and significant visions can be obtained through fasting and prayer. The Blackfeet People have lived near Chief Mountain for millennia and are aware the mountain holds great power and ancient knowledge. Use of this mountain goes back thousands of years. It is a sacred place. Chief Mountain is considered the oldest spirit of any of the mountains and creation stories of the Blackfoot People are linked to

First, I would like to thank the commission for traveling here tonight and listening to our comments. I wanted to speak tonight about something I think is very important, which is giving people all over the state the opportunity to comment on the same statewide maps. So, here in Great Falls, we can see what the effects of each plan are on our area, but also on the rest of the state. I am thankful that the commission chose to take this statewide approach because I think it forces us to recognize that how lines are drawn in one area affects more than just that city or county.

While I understand the Great Falls Chamber had the right to get involved in this process and draft their own plan for the county, I keep wondering how this plan would fit in to a statewide map and what the effects would be on surrounding areas. Based on the most recent Census, it is clear that Cascade County can no longer have nine house districts entirely within the county. We will have to be part of one or more multi-county districts. And as I looked at the five statewide proposals online, I didn't see any plan that used the same northeast corner of Cascade County and put it in with Chouteau County like the Chamber wishes to do. This leads me to believe that there would be significant ripple effects if this proposal were to be added to any of these statewide plans. I'm not sure how far this would reach, but I think that is the problem. No one knows from looking at this map of one county what the effect will be on surrounding counties and if it would even work in a statewide plan.

Because of this, I focused my attention primarily on the different statewide proposals when I was looking at the maps, and it is my belief that the Communities Plan is fair for Cascade County, as well as for the rest of the state. I have listened to some of the public hearings that were already held in several regions of the state and was struck by how many Republicans pointed out the similarities between the current legislative map and the Communities Plan. While I don't often say this, I can definitely agree with Republicans on this point. The Communities Plan looks very similar to the current map, and it would likely have the same effect on legislative races. Political parties would be forced to compete for control of the Legislature. Control of our state couldn't be determined in the primaries. We don't need to speculate about whether the current map has created competition or some great Democratic advantage that some claim. We can simply look at the last 4 election cycles.

Competition is a good thing for our state. It ensures that political parties can be held accountable by the voters. This is essential to our democracy, and I hope that, as members of this powerful commission, you will consider what the absence of competition for the next decade would mean for our state.

Thank you again for letting us voice our opinions as you take on this important assignment.

Carl J. Donovan
1509 13th AVE. S. 3
G.T. Falls, Md. 594105

April 18, 2012

Legislative Re-Districting Commission

Dear Commission:

On behalf of the Black Eagle Civic Club, it is our desire to keep all of Black Eagle in one Legislative District and not to divide the community into separate districts.

Please take this into consideration when making your decision on re-districting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monte Marzetta".

**Monte Marzetta, President:
Black Eagle Civic Club.**

Pondera County Democratic Central Committee

17-4th Ave SW

Conrad MT 59425

406-278-5523

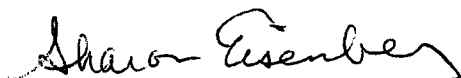
April 18, 2012

Comments on 2012 Redistricting Plans for Pondera County

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the redistricting plans.

Pondera County currently has a district that includes most of the county in a single district (27). We favor keeping the county in a single legislative district and the only plan that comes close is the "Existing Plan" where Conrad, Valier, Brady, and Dupuyer are all in the same district.

The plans "Subdivision", "Communities", and "Urban Rural" put all or part of the county seat of Conrad with Toole County to make a legislative district. We cannot support any of these plans as the citizens of Conrad and Pondera County will lose any meaningful representation in the Legislature under these plans. Toole County would have the majority of the voters of the district and Toole County does not have the same demographics and economic issues as Pondera County.



Sharon Eisenberg

Pondera County Democratic Central Committee Chairman

*Sharon Eisenberg
April 18, 2012*

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I appreciate how tough the task at hand must be in redrawing district lines in the Legislature, but I don't know why you must have proposals that gerrymander based on how people vote in certain areas. Doesn't that go against the criteria you adopted? Montana shouldn't just follow the bad examples of other states that allow one political party to draw seats that help them in elections. You should reject those kinds of maps.

There are at least a couple of maps on the table that seem to follow your criteria. I think the urban-rural 100 map is a common sense recognition of the differences between cities and rural areas of the state. I think the subdivision 100 map is also a good approach since it seems to keep many counties and towns together when possible.

Allowing the Democratic party to have a map that draws lines to help them is ridiculous. It shouldn't even be under consideration.

Thank you for listening to my comments,

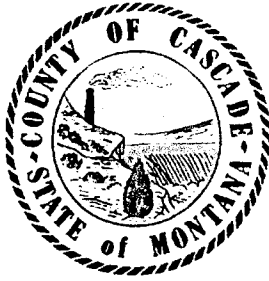
Name: Rep. Cleve Long

Address: 93 Brandy Wine Ln
Ht. Falls, MT 59404

Email Address: Cleve@leutreyrealty.com

Very pleased with the Chamber Map.

X



Commissioner Joe Briggs

jbriggs@cascadecounty.mt.gov
(406)454-6815

4/17/2012

Chairman Regnier and members of the District and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Chairman Regnier and Commissioners,

Thank you for serving the people of Montana in this important role and for coming to Great Falls for comment on the proposed redistricting options before you. Unfortunately, as you travel to Great Falls, I will be traveling to Billings and as such cannot deliver these comments in person.

As an elected official in Cascade County, I am keenly aware of the diverse communities that exist across our county and the difficult challenge that you face in drawing districts which do not unintentionally damage our communities and traditional neighborhoods. Ten years ago, this is unfortunately what occurred during the redistricting process; our traditional neighborhoods were split East to West with district boundaries cutting through parish districts, school boundaries, Neighborhood watch areas, Neighborhood Council Districts and distinct communities of interest.

Great Falls as a community developed originally on the East Bank of the Missouri and spread East in bursts that created large neighborhoods with common housing styles, lot sizes and socio economic conditions. Neighborhood Schools and Churches were created to serve the people of these Neighborhoods and a sense of community was created. In Great Falls, being from the Lower South Side or Lower North Side still means something as does being raised on the East Side, West Side or Riverview. These areas are all communities within the broader community of Great Falls and I would ask that to the best of your ability you restore the communities that were ignored in the last redistricting.

As I look at the maps before you, the one which most mirrors the Historical districting of Great Falls and honors the true communities of interest in Cascade County, is clearly the map proposed by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber map recognizes the Neighborhood Council system within the City of Great Falls; it restores the historic connection between Black Eagle and the downtown area which prior to the last redistricting shared a House member. Additionally, the Great Falls Chamber proposal restores the integrity of the East End, while retaining the historic communities of Riverview, Fox Farm, the West Side as well as our rural areas.

To be sure, it is not possible to present a perfect plan, but based on my lifelong residency here in Cascade County coupled with my years of service as a County Commissioner, I believe the Chamber proposal best meets the criteria set forth in State law and by your Commission.

I would ask that you give strong consideration to the adoption of the proposal from the Great Falls Chamber as presented. Should other factors prevent the adoption of this plan in total, I would ask that you honor the concepts presented in the Chamber proposal; recognition of the historic development of Great Falls in large blocks from West to East, the use of Neighborhood Council Boundaries, recognition of the existing sense of neighborhoods that exist in Cascade County such as Fox Farm, the Westside, Riverview and the Sun River Valley.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and best of luck in your deliberations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Briggs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Briggs
Commissioner