

APPENDIX 12-1

TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY: Low-density population and rural living has resulted in individual vehicular traffic being the only major source of transportation. Rail connection between Joseph and La Grande has been reinstated. Airfields are located at Enterprise, the State airport at Joseph, and landing strips in a number of locations around the County. The Senior Citizens Bus Program and the Wallowa Valley Stage Bus Lines connecting the cities and La Grande are the only public systems existing or anticipated in the County.

As a result of the nature of transportation improvements, primary local planning concerns are with the County, State, and Federal road systems. The County road system is of concern because of the requirements for improvement and maintenance and the costs involved with both. State roads are significant because of their connections between Wallowa County and peripheral areas to which linkages are necessary for the economic success of local industries. Federal roads are important because of the recreation and timber harvest activities which they accommodate.

Of equal concern is the Federal money being spent from the County's share of United States Forest Service timber sales revenues for road improvements over which the County has no say.

The long-range outlook for Wallowa County is little change in the emphasis of transportation modes. Other than ever present need to upgrade and maintain current facilities, which includes 671 miles of County roads, the State and Federal road systems, and the local airports. There will be little change in transportation facilities as long as the County retains its rural character, and there is no radical change either in population or world-wide energy economics.