

COMMUNITY ATTITUDES

The page that follows is a copy from the Lyon County, NV Silver Stage Community Assessment for the communities of Silver Springs and Stagecoach. These communities are located between the Pine Nut, Lahontan and Virginia Range herds and horses are often seen "about town."

This assessment was undertaken for planning, economic and grant application purposes. Among the top community responses under the heading, Theme: Preserving Rural Character was "**horses.**"

More specifically, the community's value statement regarding horses was:

"Stagecoach is blessed with an abundance of wild horses; some residents were upset by a recent Bureau of Land Management operation which rounded up wild horses."



Silver Stage Community Assessment – 2010 Section 1 *Draft*

Theme: Preserving Rural Character – Michael Guss

I found Stagecoach to be a wonderful community full of citizens that loved, and wanted to protect, Stagecoach's rural atmosphere.

Issues:

- * Help Each Other out
- * Outdoor activities
- * Star Gazing
- * ATV's
- * Horses
- * 1 acre per household
- * Equestrian Center

Stagecoach residents liked the rural character of the town—where everyone knew each other, and where people are willing to help each other out at a moment's notice.

Many citizens enjoyed outdoor recreation, such as horseback riding, hiking, star gazing, and ATV riding. Some residents were concerned about proper training for youth who ride ATVs; however some of these same residents wanted to ensure that the youth could continue to ride on public lands.

Stagecoach is blessed with an abundance of wild horses; some residents were upset by a recent Bureau of Land Management operation which rounded up wild horses.

Residents who rode horses advocated the establishment of an Equestrian Center. Many residents defined —rural as one acre per household.

Recommendations:

"Rural Character" means different things to different communities. "Rural Character" can mean agriculture, open spaces, outdoor recreation, wide open skies, bright stars, peace and quiet, solitude, and a small-town sense of community where everyone knows each other, and is willing to help each other. In Stagecoach, "Rural Character" was defined by attendees at our listening sessions as a combination of everything I just mentioned.

Preserving "Rural Character" is a balancing act between providing between protecting a lifestyle that has been lived for generations, and updating infrastructure to allow for the things that are necessary for rural businesses, people, and schools to thrive.⁴³ Stagecoach residents emphasized

⁴³ Washington Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, "Keeping the Rural Vision: Protecting Rural Character and Planning for Rural Development," 1999. P. 1