



2008
ELBERT COUNTY
PROPERTY ASSESSMENT
STUDY



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
VALUATION SPECIALISTS



September 15, 2008

Mr. Mike Mauer
Director of Research
Colorado Legislative Council
Room 029, State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

**RE: Final Report for the 2008 Colorado Property Assessment Study
for Colorado's sixty four counties**

Dear Mr. Mauer:

Rocky Mountain Valuation Specialists LLC is pleased to submit the Final Reports for the 2008 Colorado Property Assessment Study for all sixty four counties that make up the State of Colorado.

These reports represent the result of a two-part analysis and audit for each county: A procedural analysis and a statistical analysis.

The procedural analysis, for each county, included all classes of property and specifically looked at how the assessor developed economic areas, confirmed and qualified their sales, developed their time adjustments, and performed their periodic physical property inspections. The audit also reviewed the procedures for discovering, classifying and valuing agricultural outbuildings, discovering subdivision build-out and subdivision discounting procedures. Valuation methodology for residential properties and commercial properties was examined. Procedures for producing mines, oil and gas leaseholds and lands producing, producing coalmines, producing earth and stone products, severed mineral interests, and non-producing patented mining claims were also reviewed. Starting in 2007, procedural analyses of agricultural outbuildings were performed for each county.



Statistical analysis was also performed, for each county, on vacant land, residential properties, commercial/industrial properties, and agricultural land. A statistical analysis was performed to check for personal property compliance on the top 11 counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld. All other counties received a procedural study.

Throughout this project RMVS has remained committed to its belief that for an ad valorem system to be successful, values must be equitable and market-driven in all parts of Colorado. Only then is the taxpayer assured of a fair property tax.

RMVS appreciates the opportunity to be of service to the State of Colorado.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Linné".

Mark R. Linné **MAI, CAE, ASA, CRE, FRICS**
Managing Director
Rocky Mountain Valuation Specialists LLC



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INTRODUCTION



Colorado

The Colorado Constitution directs that each property tax levy shall be uniform upon all real and personal property not exempt from taxation. The constitution goes on to direct that the actual value of all applicable real and personal property shall be determined under general laws, which shall prescribe such methods and regulations as shall secure just and equalized valuations (Colo. Const., Art. X, Sec. 3 (1)(a)).

In order to check that all applicable property has been valued with just and equalized valuations, the Constitution states that commencing in 1983 the general assembly shall cause a valuation for assessment study to be conducted. Such study shall determine whether or not the assessor of each county has complied with the property tax provisions of this constitution and of the statutes in valuing property and has determined the actual value and valuation for assessment of each and every class of taxable real and personal property consistent with such provisions. Such study shall sample at least one percent of each and every class of taxable real and personal property in the county (Colo. Const., Art. X, Sec. 3 (2)(a)).

The State Board of Equalization (SBOE) reviews assessments for conformance to the Constitution. The SBOE will order revaluations for counties whose valuations

do not reflect the proper valuation period level of value.

C.R.S. 39-1-104 (16)(a)(b) and (c) outlined how this was to be accomplished by stating that during each property tax year, the director of research of the legislative council shall contract with a private person for a valuation for assessment study to be conducted as set forth in this subsection (16). The study shall be conducted in all counties of the state to determine whether or not the assessor of each county has, in fact, used all manuals, formulas, and other directives required by law to arrive at the valuation for assessment of each and every class of real and personal property in the county. The person conducting the study shall sample each class of property in a statistically valid manner, and the aggregate of such sampling shall equal at least one percent of all properties in each county of the state. The sampling shall show that the various areas, ages of buildings, economic conditions, and uses of properties have been sampled. Such study shall be completed, and a final report of the findings and conclusions thereof shall be submitted to the state board of equalization, by September 15 of the year in which the study is conducted.

The legislative council sets forth two criteria that are the focus of the audit group:

To determine whether each county assessor is applying correctly the constitutional and



statutory provisions, compliance requirements of the State Board of Equalization, and the manuals published by the State Property Tax Administrator to arrive at the actual value of each class of property.

To determine if each assessor is applying correctly the provisions of law to the actual values when arriving at valuations for assessment of all locally valued properties subject to the property tax.

The property assessment audit conducts a two-part analysis: A procedural analysis and a statistical analysis.

The procedural analysis includes all classes of property and specifically looks at how the assessor develops economic areas, confirms and qualifies sales, and develops time adjustments. The audit also examines the procedures for adequately discovering, classifying and valuing agricultural outbuildings, discovering subdivision build-

out and subdivision discounting procedures. Valuation methodology for vacant land, improved residential properties and commercial properties is examined. Procedures for producing mines, oil and gas leaseholds and lands producing, producing coal mines, producing earth and stone products, severed mineral interests and non-producing patented mining claims are also reviewed.

Statistical analysis is performed on vacant land, residential properties, commercial industrial properties, agricultural land, and personal property. The statistical study results are compared with State Board of Equalization compliance requirements and the manuals published by the State Property Tax Administrator.

RMVS has completed the Property Assessment Study for 2008 and is pleased to report its findings for Elbert County in the following report.



REGIONAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ELBERT COUNTY

Regional Information

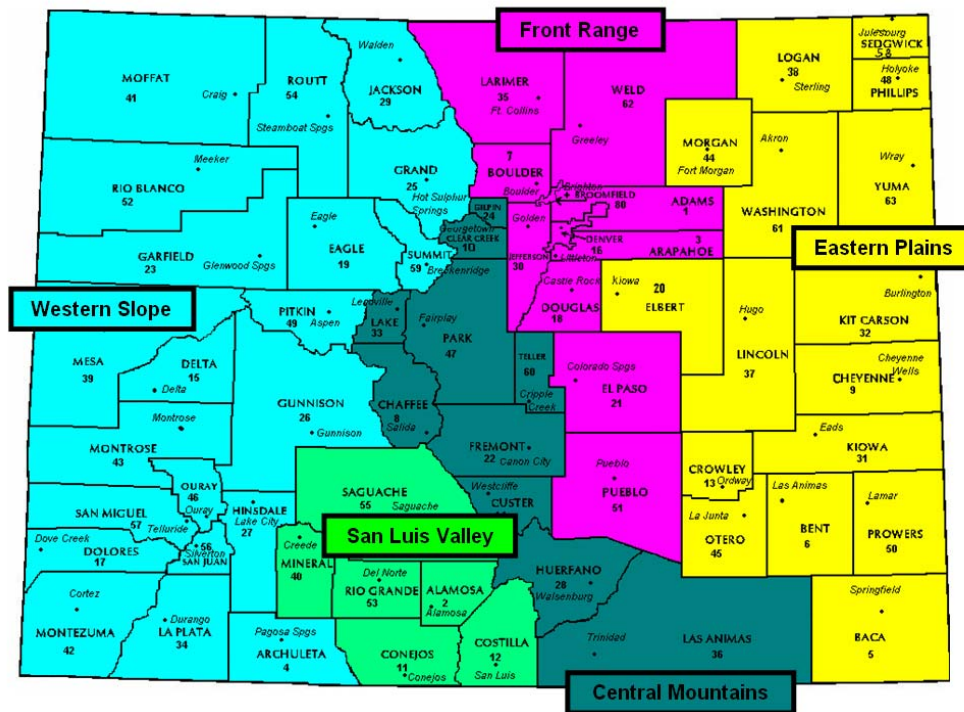
Elbert County is located in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado. The Eastern Plains of Colorado refer to the region of the U.S. State of Colorado on the east side of the Rocky Mountains, and east of the population centers of the Front Range.

The Eastern Plains are part of the High Plains, which are the westernmost portion of the Great Plains region. They are among the most sparsely populated areas in the continental United States. Most of the

Eastern Plains region lies within Colorado's 4th congressional district.

The Eastern Plains includes Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Otero, Phillips, Prowers, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma counties.

Even though Colorado is considered a quintessential Western state, this region is often considered the Midwest.





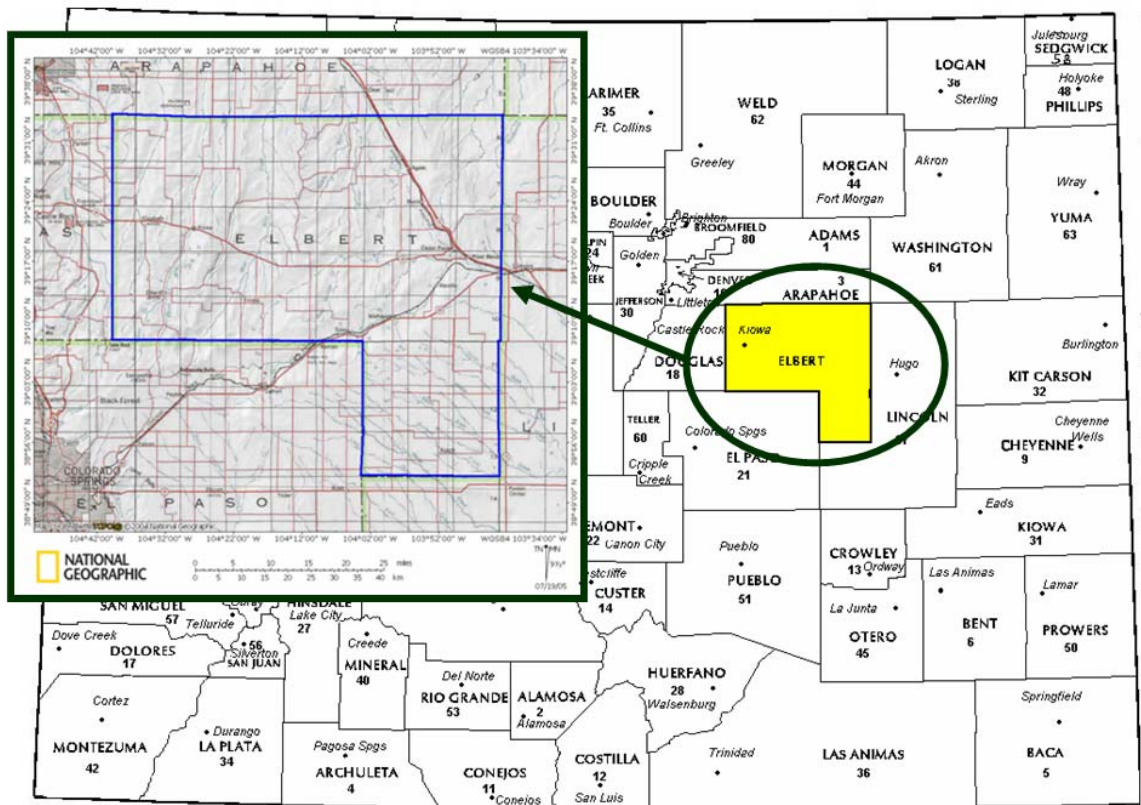
Historical Information

Elbert County has a population of approximately 23,181 people with 10.7 people per square mile, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006 estimated population data.

The County was created from a portion of Douglas County and the short-lived Greenwood County in 1874 and is 1,864 square miles in area. It was named in honor

of Samuel H. Elbert, who was appointed Secretary of Colorado Territory by President Abraham Lincoln and who later became the sixth governor of the Territory.

The county seat is Kiowa, named for the Kiowa Indian tribe of the southern Plains, who called themselves Kae-gua. (William Bright, Colorado Place Names, 3rd Edition, Johnson Books, 2004, p.58 and 97)





RATIO ANALYSIS

Methodology

All significant classes of properties were analyzed. Sales were collected for each property class over the appropriate sale period, which was typically defined as the 18-month period between January 2005 and June 2006. Counties with less than 30 sales typically extended the sale period back up to 5 years prior to June 30, 2006 in 6-month increments. If there were still fewer than 30 sales, supplemental appraisals were performed and treated as proxy sales. Residential sales for all counties using this method totaled at least 30 per county. For commercial sales, the total number analyzed was allowed, in some cases, to fall below 30. There were no sale quantity issues for counties requiring vacant land analysis or condominium analysis. Although it was required that we examine the median and coefficient of dispersion for all counties, we also calculated the weighted mean and price-related differential for each class of property. Counties were not passed or

failed by these latter measures, but were counseled if there were anomalies noted during our analysis. Qualified sales were based on the qualification code used by each county, which were typically coded as either “Q” or “C.” The ratio analysis included all sales. The data was trimmed for counties with obvious outliers using IAAO standards for data analysis. In every case, we examined the loss in data from trimming to insure that only true outliers were excluded. Any county with a significant portion of sales excluded by this trimming method were examined further. No county was allowed to pass the audit if more than 5% of the sales were “lost” because of trimming. For the largest 11 counties, the residential ratio statistics were broken down by economic area as well.

Conclusions

For this final analysis report, the minimum acceptable statistical standards allowed by the State Board of Equalization are:

ALLOWABLE STANDARDS RATIO GRID		
Property Class	Unweighted Median Ratio	Coefficient of Dispersion
Commercial/Industrial	Between .95-1.05	Less than 20.99
Condominium	Between .95-1.05	Less than 15.99
Single Family	Between .95-1.05	Less than 15.99
Vacant Land	Between .95-1.05	Less than 20.99



The results for Elbert County are:

Elbert County Ratio Grid						
Property Class	Number of Qualified Sales	Unweighted Median Ratio	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Time Trend Analysis	
Commercial/Industrial	34	0.956	1.074	17	Compliant	
Condominium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Single Family	753	0.990	1.008	9.1	Compliant	
Vacant Land	325	0.970	1.064	19.4	Compliant	

After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded from the sales ratios that Elbert County is in

compliance with SBOE, DPT, and Colorado State Statute valuation guidelines.

Recommendations

None



TIME TRENDING VERIFICATION

Methodology

While we recommend that counties use the inverted ratio regression analysis method to account for market (time) trending, some counties have used other IAAO-approved methods, such as the weighted monthly median approach. We are not auditing the methods used, but rather the results of the methods used. Given this range of methodologies used to account for market trending, we concluded that the best validation method was to examine the sale ratios for each class across the appropriate sale period. To be specific, if a county has considered and adjusted correctly for market trending, then the sale ratios should remain stable (i.e. flat) across the sale period. If a residual market trend is detected, then the county may or may not have addressed market trending adequately,

and a further examination is warranted. This validation methodology also considers the number of sales and the length of the sale period. Counties with few sales across the sale period were carefully examined to determine if the statistical results were valid.

Conclusions

After verification and analysis, it has been determined that Elbert County has complied with the statutory requirements to analyze the effects of time on value in their county. Elbert County has also satisfactorily applied the results of their time trending analysis to arrive at the time adjusted sales price (TASP).

Recommendations

None



SOLD/UNSOLD ANALYSIS

Methodology

Elbert County was tested for the equal treatment of sold and unsold properties to insure that “sales chasing” has not occurred. The auditors employed a multi-step process to determine if sold and unsold properties were valued in a consistent manner.

All qualified residential and commercial class properties were examined using the unit value method, where the actual value per square foot was compared between sold and unsold properties. A class was considered qualified if it met the criteria for the ratio analysis. The median value per square foot for both groups was compared from an appraisal and statistical perspective. If no significant difference was indicated, then we concluded that no further testing was warranted and that the county was in compliance in terms of sold/unsold consistency.

If either residential or commercial differences were significant using the unit value method, or if data limitations made the comparison invalid, then the next step was to perform a ratio analysis comparing the 2006 and 2008 actual values for each qualified class of property. All qualified vacant land classes were tested using this method. The sale property ratios were arrayed using a range of 0.8 to 1.5, which theoretically excluded changes between years that were due to other unrelated changes in the property. These ratios were also stratified at the appropriate level of analysis. Once the percent change was determined for each appropriate class and sub-class, the next step was to select the

unsold sample. This sample was at least 1% of the total population of unsold properties and excluded any sale properties. The unsold sample was filtered based on the attributes of the sold dataset to closely correlate both groups. The ratio analysis was then performed on the unsold properties and stratified. The median and mean ratio distribution was then compared between the sold and unsold group. A non-parametric test such as the Mann-Whitney test for differences between independent samples was undertaken to determine whether any observed differential was significant. If this test determined that the unsold properties were treated in a manner similar to the sold properties, it was concluded that no further testing was warranted and that the county was in compliance.

If a class or sub-class of property was determined to be significantly different by this method, the final step was to perform a multi-variate mass appraisal model that developed ratio statistics from the sold properties that were then applied to the unsold sample. This test compared the measures of central tendency and confidence intervals for the sold properties with the unsold property sample. If this comparison was also determined to be significantly different, then the conclusion was that the county had treated the unsold properties in a different manner than sold properties.

These tests were supported by both tabular and chart presentations, along with saved sold and unsold sample files.



Sold/Unsold Results	
Property Class	Results
Commercial/Industrial	Compliant
Condominium	N/A
Single Family	Compliant
Vacant Land	Compliant

Conclusions

After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded that Elbert County is reasonably treating its sold and unsold properties in the same manner.

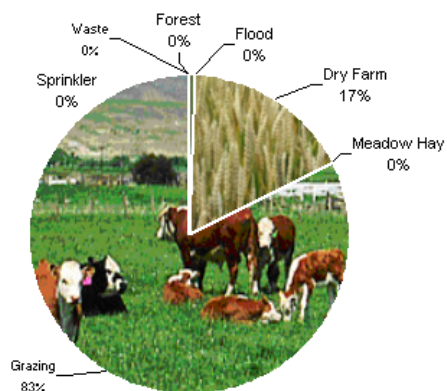
Recommendations

None

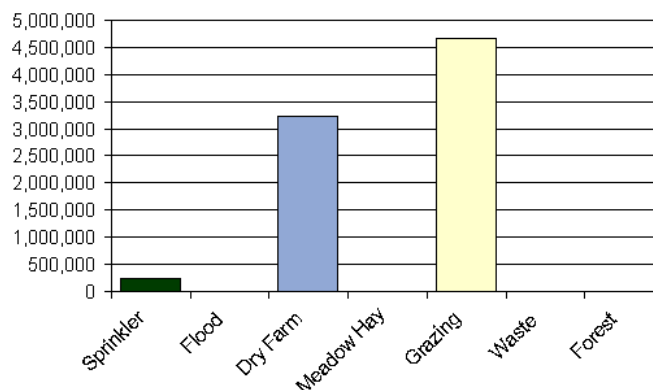


AGRICULTURAL LAND STUDY

Acres By Subclass



Value By Subclass



Agricultural Land

County records were reviewed to determine major land categories such as irrigated farm, dry farm, meadow hay, grazing and other lands. In addition, county records were reviewed in order to determine if: Aerial photographs are available and are being used; soil conservation guidelines have been used to classify lands based on productivity; crop rotations have been documented; typical commodities and yields have been determined; orchard lands have been properly classified and valued; expenses reflect a ten year average and are typical landlord expenses; grazing lands have been properly classified and valued; the number of acres in each class and subclass have been determined; the capitalization rate was properly applied. Also, documentation was required for the valuation methods used and any locally developed yields, carrying capacities, and expenses. Records were also

checked to ensure that the commodity prices and expenses, furnished by the Property Tax Administrator (PTA), were applied properly. (See Assessor Reference Library Volume 3 Chapter 5.)

Conclusions

An analysis of the agricultural land data indicates an acceptable appraisal of this property type. Directives, commodity prices and expenses provided by the PTA were properly applied. County yields compared favorably to those published by Colorado Agricultural Statistics. Expenses used by the county were allowable expenses and were in an acceptable range. Grazing lands carrying capacities were in an acceptable range. The data analyzed resulted in the following ratios:



Elbert County Agricultural Land Ratio Grid						
Abstract Code	Land Class	Number Of Acres	County Value Per Acre	County Assessed Total Value	RMVS Total Value	Ratio
4107	Sprinkler	4,434	53.95	239,199	231,000	1.04
4117	Flood	166	34.27	5,693	6,088	0.94
4127	Dry Farm	173,079	18.69	3,235,382	3,141,552	1.03
4137	Meadow Hay	652	11.09	7,231	7,231	1.00
4147	Grazing	832,270	5.62	4,673,451	4,673,451	1.00
4177	Forest	556	5.74	3,193	3,193	1.00
4167	Waste	113	1.63	185	185	1.00
Total/Avg		1,011,270	8.07	8,164,333	8,062,699	1.01

Recommendations

None

Agricultural Outbuildings

Methodology

A sample of various use types of agricultural outbuildings with varying ages was reviewed to see if the guidelines found in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3, pages 5.73 through 5.78 were being followed.

Conclusions

Elbert County has developed a written plan for the implementation of the recommended procedures provided by the Division of Property Taxation for the valuation of agricultural outbuildings.

Recommendations

None



SALES VERIFICATION

According to Colorado Revised Statutes:

A representative body of sales is required when considering the market approach to appraisal.

(8) In any case in which sales prices of comparable properties within any class or subclass are utilized when considering the market approach to appraisal in the determination of actual value of any taxable property, the following limitations and conditions shall apply:

(a)(I) Use of the market approach shall require a representative body of sales, including sales by a lender or government, sufficient to set a pattern, and appraisals shall reflect due consideration of the degree of comparability of sales, including the extent of similarities and dissimilarities among properties that are compared for assessment purposes. In order to obtain a reasonable sample and to reduce sudden price changes or fluctuations, all sales shall be included in the sample that reasonably reflect a true or typical sales price during the period specified in section 39-1-104 (10.2). Sales of personal property exempt pursuant to the provisions of sections 39-3-102, 39-3-103, and 39-3-119 to 39-3-122 shall not be included in any such sample.

(b) Each such sale included in the sample shall be coded to indicate a typical, negotiated sale, as screened and verified by the assessor. (39-1-103, C.R.S.)

The assessor is required to use sales of real property only in the valuation process.

(8)(f) Such true and typical sales shall include only those sales which have been determined on an individual basis to reflect the selling price of the real property only or which have been adjusted on an individual basis to reflect the selling price of the real property only. (39-1-103, C.R.S.)

Part of the Property Assessment Study is the sales verification analysis. RMVS has used the above-cited statutes as a guide in our study of the county's procedures and practices for verifying sales.

RMVS reviewed the sales verification procedures in 2008 for Elbert County. This study was conducted by checking selected sales from the master sales list for the valuation period. Specifically RMVS selected 30 sales listed as unqualified.

All but three of the sales selected in the sample gave reasons that were clear and supportable. Three sales had insufficient documentation.

Conclusions

Elbert County appears to be doing an adequate job of verifying their sales. There are no recommendations.

Recommendations

None



ECONOMIC AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Methodology

Elbert County has submitted a written narrative describing the economic areas that make up the county's market areas. Elbert County has also submitted a map illustrating these areas. Each of these narratives have been read and analyzed for logic and appraisal sensibility. The maps were also compared to the narrative for consistency between the written description and the map.

Conclusions

After review and analysis, it has been determined that Elbert County has

adequately identified homogeneous economic areas comprised of smaller neighborhoods. Each economic area defined is equally subject to a set of economic forces that impact the value of the properties within that geographic area and this has been adequately addressed. Each economic area defined adequately delineates an area that will give "similar values for similar properties in similar areas."

Recommendations

None



NATURAL RESOURCES

Earth and Stone Products

Methodology

Under the guidelines of the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL), Volume 3, Natural Resource Valuation Procedures, the income approach was the primary method applied to find value for production of earth and stone products. The number of tons was multiplied by an economic location factor that represented the landlord's royalty. The landlord's share was multiplied by a recommended Hoskold factor to determine the actual value. The Hoskold factor was determined by the life of the reserves, or the lease. The value was primarily based on two variables: life and tonnage. The operator determines these since there is no other means to obtain production data through any state or private agency.

Conclusions

County has applied the correct formulas and state guidelines to earth and stone production.

Recommendations

None

Producing Oil and Gas Procedures

Methodology

The Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) in Article 39, Section 7, and the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL), Volume 3 were the basis for valuing the production of gas property. For gas, the gross volume of thousand cubic feet (MCF) sold was multiplied by the current average field price per unit sold. For Oil, the gross volume of barrels sold was multiplied by the current average field price per unit sold. Any federal, state or local government ownership (royalty) was deducted from the gross value sold to arrive at actual value.

Conclusions

County valued oil and gas production using acceptable appraisal procedures.

Recommendations:

None



VACANT LAND

Subdivision Discounting

In 2008 subdivisions were reviewed in Elbert County. The review showed that subdivisions were discounted pursuant to the Colorado Revised Statutes in Article 39-1-103 (14) and by applying the recommended methodology in ARL Vol 3, Chap 4. Subdivision Discounting in the intervening year was accomplished by reducing the absorption period by one year. In instances where the number of sales within an approved plat was less than the absorption rate per year calculated for the

plat, the absorption period was left unchanged.

Conclusions

Elbert County has implemented proper procedures to adequately estimate absorption periods, discount rates, and lot values for qualifying subdivisions.

Recommendations

None



POSSESSORY INTEREST PROPERTIES

Possessory interest property discovery and valuation is described in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3 section 7 in accordance with the requirements of 39-1-103 (17)(a) (II) C.R.S. Possessory Interest is defined by the Property Tax Administrator's Publication ARL Volume 3, Section 7: A private property interest in government-owned property or the right to the occupancy and use of any benefit in government-owned property that has been granted under lease, permit, license, concession, contract, or other agreement.

Elbert County has been reviewed for their procedures and adherence to guidelines when assessing and valuing possessory

interest properties. The county has also been queried as to their confidence that the possessory interest properties have been discovered and placed on the tax rolls.

Conclusions

Elbert County has implemented a discovery process to place possessory interest properties on the roll. They have also correctly and consistently applied the correct procedures and valuation methods in the valuation of possessory interest properties.

Recommendations

None



PERSONAL PROPERTY AUDIT

Elbert County was studied for its procedural compliance with the personal property assessment outlined in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 5, and in the State Board of Equalization (SBOE) requirements for the assessment of personal property. The SBOE requirements are outlined as follows:

Use ARL Volume 5 including current discovery, classification, and documentation procedures, and including current economic lives table, cost factor tables, depreciation table, and level of value adjustment factor table.

The personal property audit standards narrative must be in place and current. A listing of businesses that have been audited by the assessor within the twelve-month period reflected in the plan is given to the auditor. The audited businesses must be in conformity with those described in the plan.

Aggregate ratio will be determined solely from the personal property accounts that have been physically inspected. The minimum assessment sample is one percent or ten schedules, whichever is greater, and the maximum assessment audit sample is 100 schedules.

For the counties having over 100,000 population, RMVS selected a sample of all personal property schedules to determine whether the assessor is correctly applying the provisions of law and manuals of the Property Tax Administrator in arriving at the assessment levels of such property. This sample was selected from the personal property schedules audited by the assessor. In no event was the sample selected by the contractor less than 30 schedules. The

counties to be included in this study are Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld. All other counties received a procedural study.

Elbert County is compliant with the guidelines set forth in ARL Volume 5 regarding discovery procedures, using the following methods to discover personal property accounts in the county:

- Public Record Documents
- Local Telephone Directories, Newspapers or Other Local Publications
- Personal Observation, Physical Canvassing or Word of Mouth
- Questionnaires, Letters and/or Phone Calls to Buyer, Seller and/or Realtor

The county uses the Division of Property Taxation (DPT) recommended classification and documentation procedures. The DPT's recommended cost factor tables, depreciation tables and level of value adjustment factor tables are also used.

Elbert County submitted their personal property written audit plan and was current for the 2008 valuation period. The number and listing of businesses audited was also submitted and was in conformance with the written audit plan. The following audit triggers were used by the county to select accounts to be audited:

- Businesses in a selected area
- Accounts with obvious discrepancies



- New businesses filing for the first time
- Accounts with greater than 10% change
- Incomplete or inconsistent declarations
- Accounts with omitted property
- Same business type or use
- Businesses with no deletions or additions for 2 or more years
- Non-filing Accounts - Best Information Available
- Accounts close to the \$2,500 actual value exemption status
- Accounts protested with substantial disagreement

Conclusions

Elbert County has employed adequate discovery, classification, documentation, valuation, and auditing procedures for their personal property assessment and is in statistical compliance with SBOE requirements.

Recommendations

None



RMVS AUDITOR STAFF

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Helen D. Powszukiewicz, *General Audit Support Administrative Assistant*

Carl W. Ross, *Agricultural Coordinator and Supervisor for RMVS*

Cathie E. Ross, *General Audit Support Administrative Assistant*

Katie Linné, *Administrative Assistant*



APPENDICES



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ELBERT COUNTY 2008

I. OVERVIEW

Elbert County is located in eastern Colorado. The County has a total of 14,769 real property parcels based on the data submitted by the County Assessor's office in 2008. The breakdown by property type is listed in the table below.

PROPERTY TYPE

	Frequency	Percent
VACANT LAND	1,611	10.9
RESIDENTIAL	6,699	45.4
COMMERCIAL	194	1.3
INDUSTRIAL	16	.1
OTHER	6,249	42.3
Total	14,769	100.0

**Note: Parcels with Current Value = 0 were excluded from the analysis.*

Vacant Land

The vacant land class of properties has a total of 1,611 parcels. The majority (38%) of these parcels are classified as single family residential (100,1112). The remaining vacant parcels are a mix of PUD, commercial/industrial, multi-family, mobile home, or have a subclass code that is delineated by the acreage of the parcel.



SUBCLASS CODE

	Frequency	Percent
100 Residential Lots	484	30.0
200 Commercial Lots	66	4.1
300 Industrial Lots	17	1.1
400 PUD Lots	267	16.6
510 Less Than 1.0 ACRES	41	2.5
520 1.0 to 4.99 ACRES	54	3.4
530 5.0 to 9.99 ACRES	165	10.2
540 10.0 to 34.99 ACRES	97	6.0
550 35.0 to 99.99 ACRES	174	10.8
560 100.0 ACRES and Up	7	.4
600 Minor Structures on Vacant Land	87	5.4
1112 Single Family Residence Land	132	8.2
1135 Manuf Housing (Mobile Homes) Land	18	1.1
1140 Manuf Housing (Land, Park, Etc.) Land	2	.1
Total	1,611	100.0

Residential

The residential subclass category has a total of 6,699 parcels. Ninety-nine percent of the parcels have a single-family (1212) subclass code. The remaining parcels in this category are multi-unit, condominium and mobile homes.

SUBCLASS CODE

	Frequency	Percent
1212 Single Family Residence	6,631	99.0
1215 Duplexes-Triplexes	18	.3
1220 Multi-Units (4-8)	9	.1
1225 Multi-Units (9 & Up)	1	.0
1230 Condominiums	37	.6
1235 Manuf Housing (Mobile Homes)	2	.0
1240 Manuf Housing (Land, Park, Etc.)	1	.0
Total	6,699	100.0

Commercial/Industrial

The commercial/industrial subclass category has a total of 210 properties. This category represents 1.4% of the total real property inventory. The majority (92%) of these parcels have a commercial use. The breakdown by subclass code is listed below.



SUBCLASS CODE

	Frequency	Percent
2130 Special Purpose	21	10.0
2135 WareHouse/Strg	1	.5
2212 Merchandising	40	19.0
2215 Lodging	1	.5
2220 Offices	23	11.0
2225 Recreation	4	1.9
2230 Special Purpose	70	33.3
2235 WareHouse/Strg	19	9.0
2240 Multi-Use (3+)	14	6.7
2250 Partially Exempt (Taxable Part)	1	.5
3215 Manuf/Processing	15	7.1
3220 Manuf/Milling	1	.5
Total	210	100.0

Other

The majority of the remaining parcels have an agricultural use.

II. SALES FILE

The sale file provided by the Elbert County Assessor’s Office contained 1,467 real property sales between the dates of January 2005 and June 2006. The breakdown of sales activity by sale month and year is as follows:

		SALE YEAR		Total
		2005	2006	
SALE MONTH	January	49	59	108
	February	81	45	126
	March	95	84	179
	April	79	65	144
	May	102	101	203
	June	103	84	187
	July	115	0	115
	August	101	0	101
	September	87	0	87
	October	81	0	81
	November	68	0	68
	December	68	0	68
Total		1,029	438	1,467

Once the sales were edited to keep the most recent sale, transactions that were coded as unqualified by the County were excluded from the analysis. The following table provides a breakdown of the qualified and unqualified sales.



SALE INVESTIGATION CODE

	Frequency	Percent
QUALIFIED	1,133	81.0
UNQUALIFIED	265	19.0
Total	1,398	100.0

There were 1,133 sales that were classified as qualified. The breakdown of the sales with the current property type is listed below.

SALE TYPE

	Frequency	Percent
VACANT	76	6.7
VACANT SALE WITH NON-VACANT LAND SUBCLASS	249	22.0
RESIDENTIAL	753	66.5
COMM/IND	10	.9
OTHER	45	4.0
Total	1,133	100.0

III. RESIDENTIAL SALES RESULTS

For the residential analysis, 753 sales between the dates January 2005 and June 2006 were analyzed. A breakdown of the sales by subclass is listed below.

SUBCLASS CODE

	Frequency	Percent
1212 Single Family Residence	746	99.1
1215 Duplexes-Triplexes	3	.4
1230 Condominiums	4	.5
Total	753	100.0

These sales were used to perform a sales ratio analysis to determine whether the statutory guidelines for the level and quality of the assessments have been satisfied. In order to perform a sales ratio analysis all sales must reflect market conditions as of June 30, 2006.

Based on an examination of the sales file, the County did not apply time adjustments to the sales during this time period. The following table outlines the sales ratio statistics for all residential properties in Elbert County.



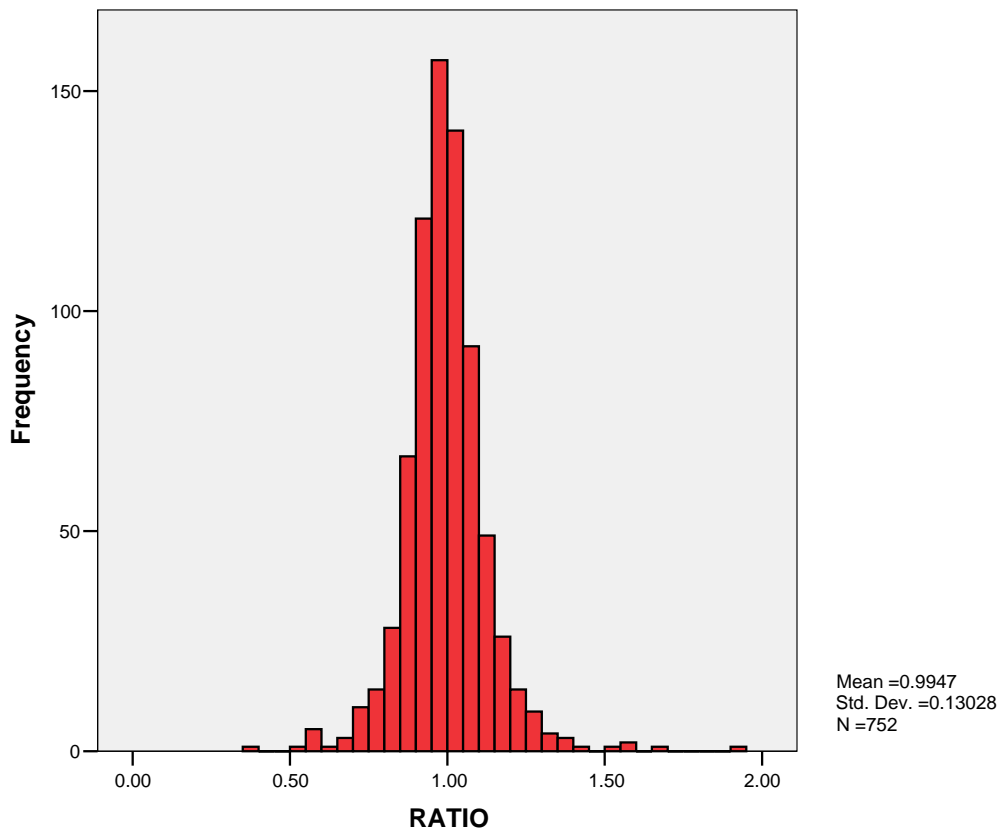
Ratio Statistics

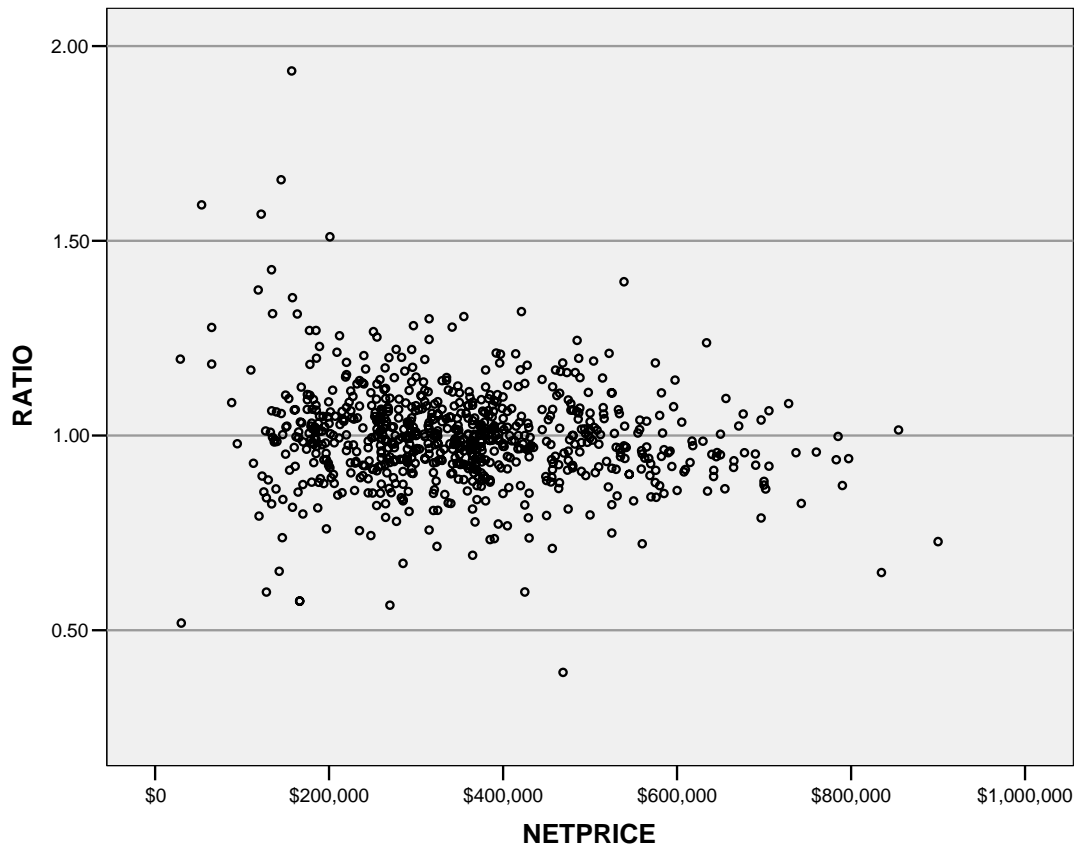
Mean	.995
Median	.990
Weighted Mean	.987
Price Related Differential	1.008
Coefficient of Dispersion	.091

RATIO = CURRENT ASMT / TASP

**Note: 1 sale with a sale ratio < .30 was excluded from the above analysis.*

The residential sale ratios are in compliance with the standards set forth by the Colorado State Board of Equalization (SBOE) for the overall sales. The following graphical exhibits describe further the sales ratio distribution for all of these properties:





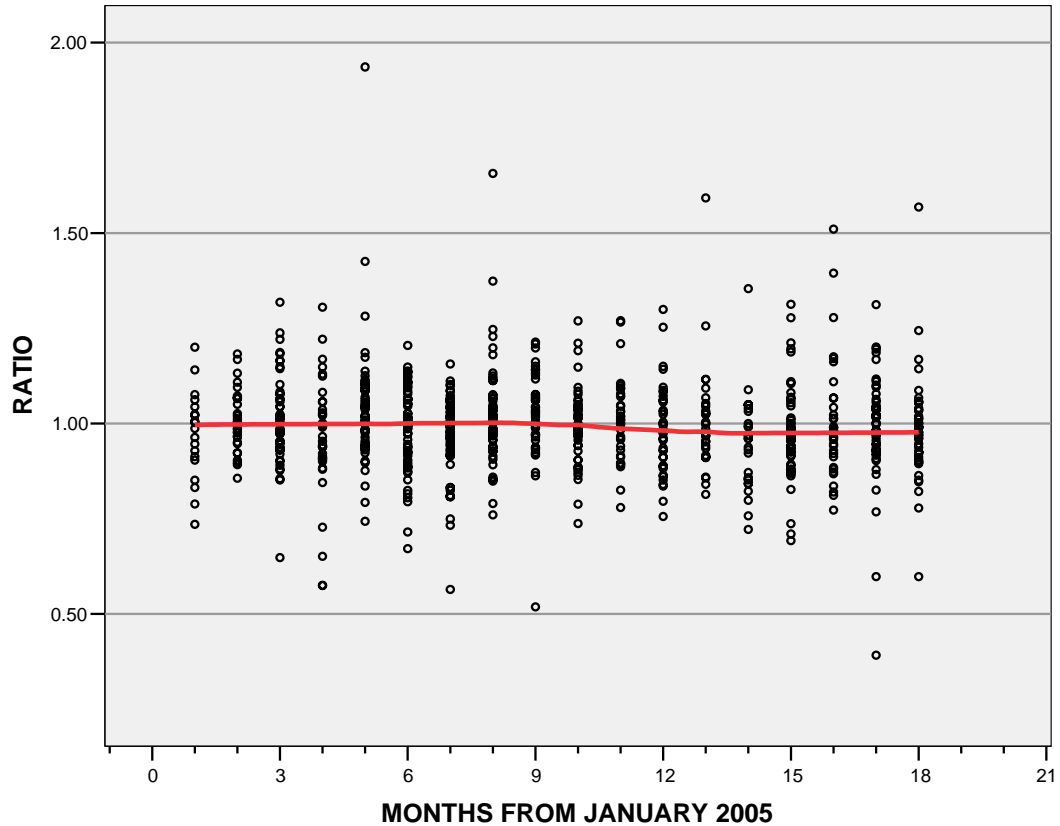
The above graphs indicate that the distribution of the sale ratios are within state mandated limits, and that there are no significant price related differential issues.

Residential Market Trend Analysis

We verified that market trending was accounted for in the residential valuations by analyzing the sale ratios over the 18 month time period. The following graph illustrates a horizontal pattern indicating no significant changes in sale ratios during the study period.



Sale Ratio By Months



Sold/Unsold Analysis

For the 2007 revaluation year audit, an analysis was performed that confirmed that the median assessed value per square foot for sold and unsold residential property was similar. Since tax year 2008 is the intervening year, this relationship should not change. If there is no change in either category, the conclusions from the 2007 audit would also be applicable to the current year.

2007 - 2008 PERCENT CHANGE

CHANGE		
CATEGORY	Median	N
SOLD	.0000	753
UNSOLD	.0000	5,938

The median percent change table of sold and unsold residential property indicates that there is no change in either category. Therefore, we can conclude that the analysis performed for the 2007 audit is also applicable for the 2008 intervening year.



IV. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SALES RESULTS

The sale file provided by the County contained 10 commercial sales between the dates of January 2005 and June 2006. These sales were supplemented by sales contained in earlier sale files provided by the County. In total, for the 60-month sale period of July 2001 thru June 2006 there were 34 sales. A breakdown of the sales by subclass is as follows:

SUBCLASS CODE

	Frequency	Percent
Merchandising	9	26.5
Offices	9	26.5
Special Purpose	8	23.5
WareHouse/Strg	4	11.8
Multi-Use (3+)	4	11.8
Total	34	100.0

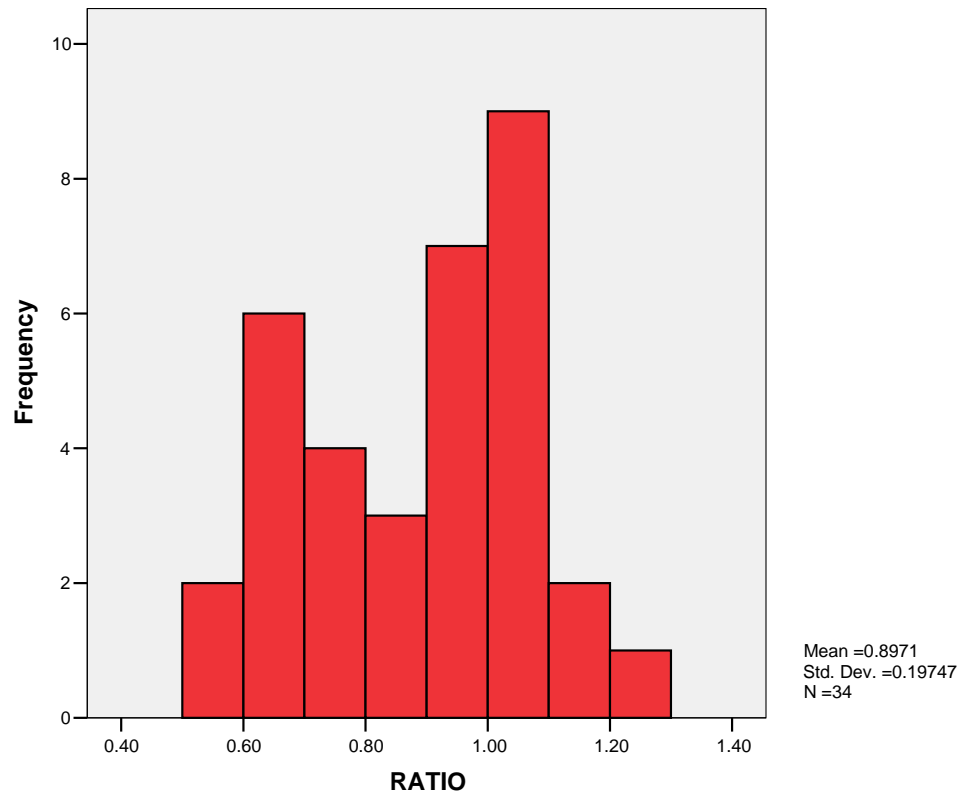
In order to perform a sales ratio analysis all commercial/industrial sales must reflect market conditions as of June 30, 2006. Based on an examination of the sales file, the County did not apply time adjustments to the sales during this time period. The following table outlines the sales ratio statistics for commercial and industrial properties in Elbert County.

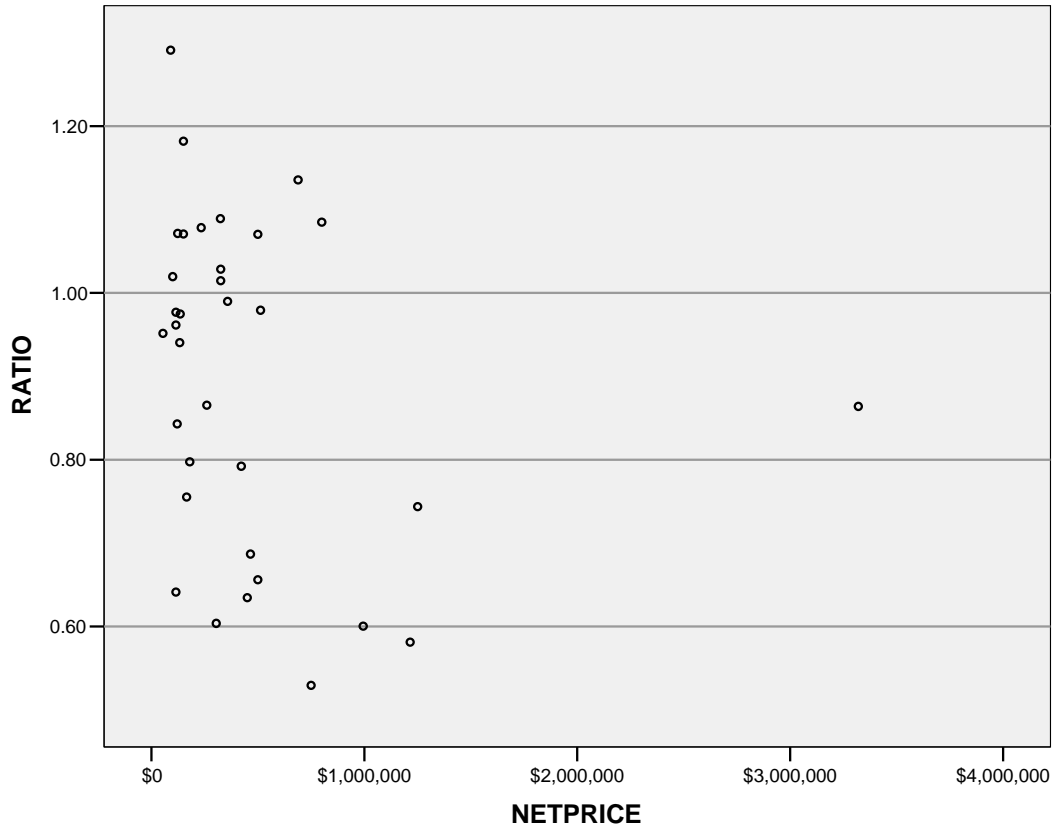
Ratio Statistics

Mean	.897
Median	.956
Weighted Mean	.835
Price Related Differential	1.074
Coefficient of Dispersion	.170

$$\text{RATIO} = \text{CURRENT ASMT} / \text{NETPRICE}$$

The above ratios are in compliance with the standards set forth by the Colorado State Board of Equalization (SBOE) for the overall sales. The following graphical exhibits describe further the sales ratio distribution for all of these properties:





Commercial Market Trend Analysis

Since there is limited sales data to determine a commercial trend, we evaluated median sale ratio performance for each sale year.

Report

RATIO		
SALE YEAR	Median	N
2001	.8871	4
2002	.9653	8
2003	.9898	7
2004	.6561	5
2005	.9469	6
2006	.8663	4
Total	.9565	34



The median sale ratio by sale year table indicates that sale ratios from 2001-2003 have higher ratios than years 2004-2006. We recommend that the county continue to evaluate all commercial sale activity to determine whether time adjustments should be applied to the commercial sales for the next revaluation cycle.

Sold/Unsold Analysis

For the 2007 revaluation year audit, an analysis was performed that confirmed that the median change in value for sold and unsold commercial/industrial property was similar. Since tax year 2008 is the intervening year, this relationship should not change. If there is no change in either category, the conclusions from the 2007 audit would also be applicable to the current year.

2007 - 2008 PERCENT CHANGE

CHANGE		
CATEGORY	Median	N
SOLD	.0000	32
UNSOLD	.0000	178

The median percent change table of sold and unsold commercial/industrial property indicates that there is no change in either category. Therefore, we can conclude that the analysis performed for the 2007 audit is also applicable for the 2008 intervening year.

V. VACANT LAND SALE RESULTS

For the vacant land analysis, 325 sales between the dates of January 2005 and June 2006 were analyzed. A breakdown of the sales by current property type is listed below.

PROPERTY TYPE

	Frequency	Percent
VACANT LAND	76	23.4
RESIDENTIAL	145	44.6
COMMERCIAL	2	.6
OTHER	102	31.4
Total	325	100.0

Sales that were coded as vacant (76) were used in the vacant land sale ratio study. The remaining sales were excluded from the analysis.

In order to perform a sales ratio analysis all vacant land sales must reflect market conditions as of June 30, 2006. Based on an examination of the sales file, the County did not apply time adjustments to the sales during this time period. The following table outlines the sales ratio statistics for vacant land properties in Elbert County.



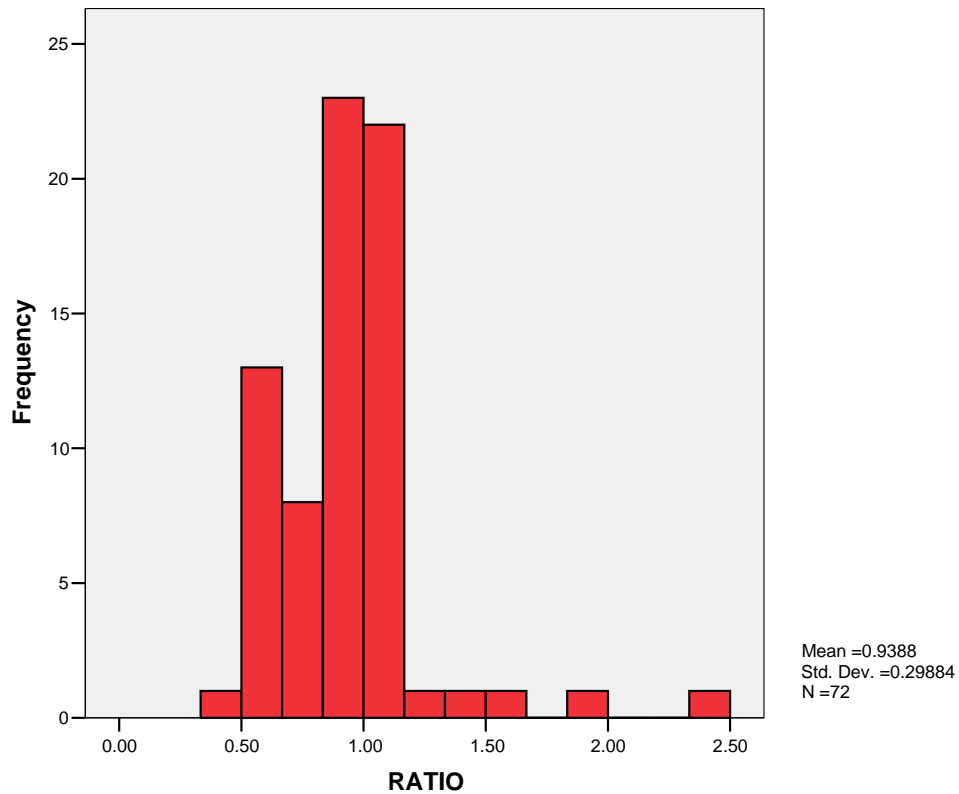
Ratio Statistics

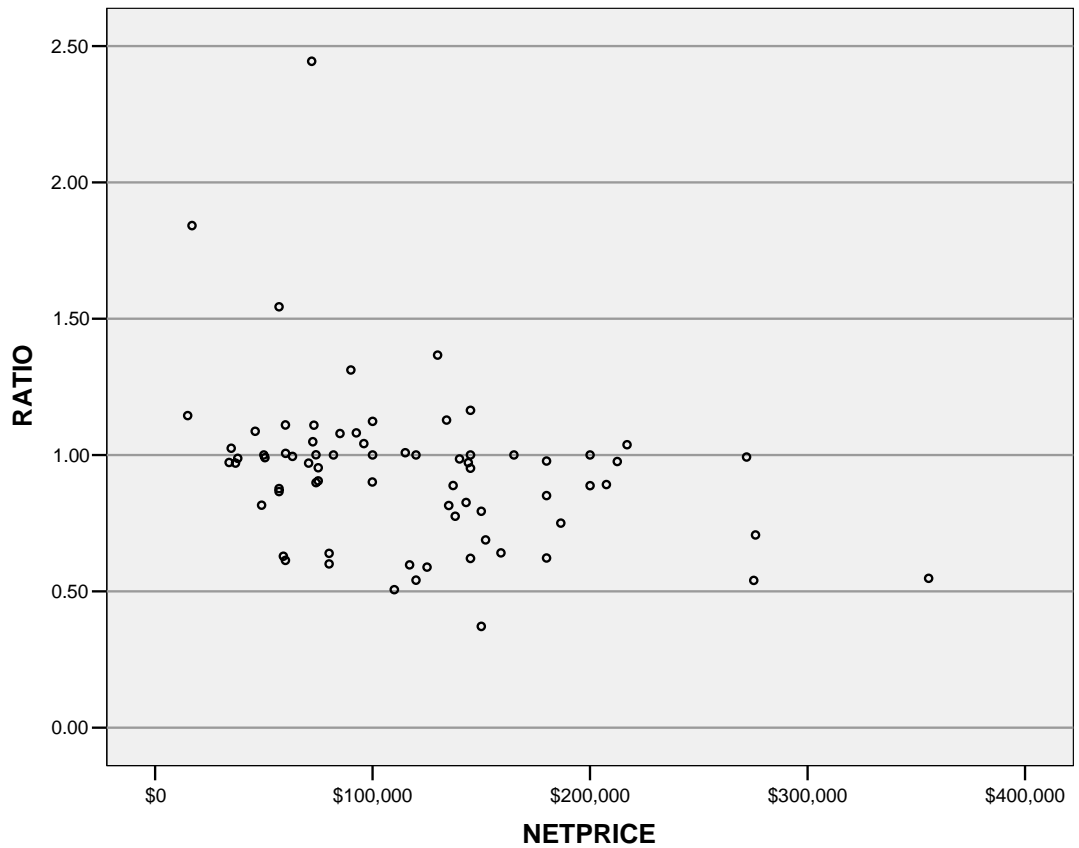
Mean	.931
Median	.970
Weighted Mean	.874
Price Related Differential	1.064
Coefficient of Dispersion	.194

RATIO = CURRENT LV / NETPRICE

**Note: 2 sale ratios < .30 and 2 sale ratios > 2.5 were excluded from the analysis.*

The sales ratios are in compliance with the standards set forth by the Colorado State Board of Equalization (SBOE) for the overall sales. The following graphical exhibits describe further the sales ratio distribution for all of these properties:



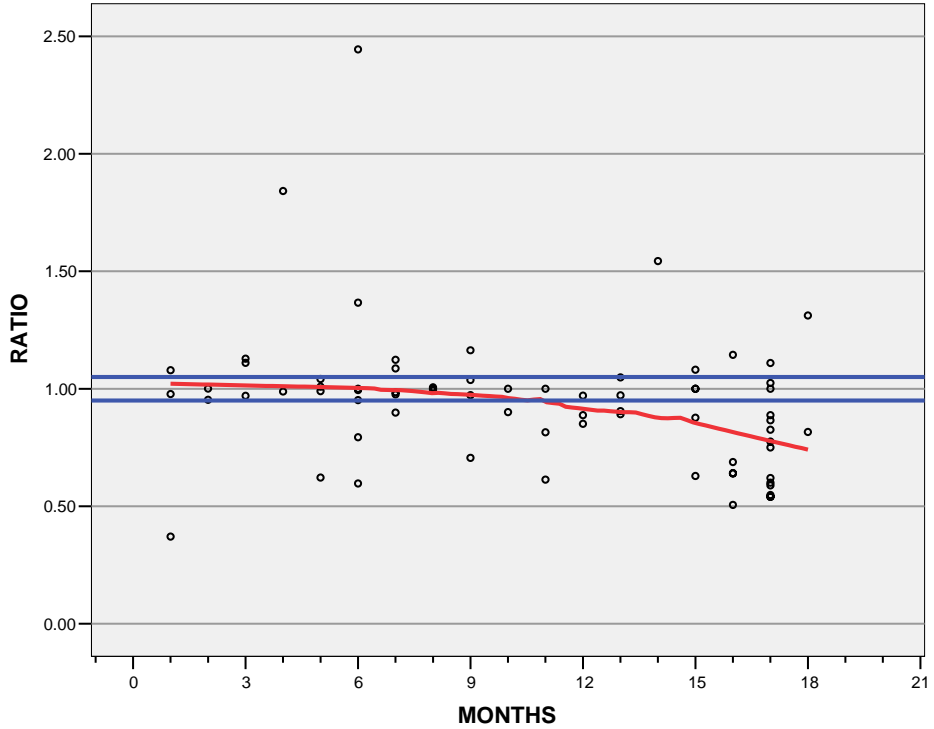


Vacant Land Market Trend Analysis

The “Sales Ratio by Months” graph describes the sale ratios over the 18 month time period. The graph illustrates a pattern of declining sale ratios during this period. This trend was tested and is significant at a 95% confidence level. The significance of the trend is influenced by the sales in the last 3 months of the study period (see table of ratios by sale month and year). If these sales were not included as part of the analysis, the trend would be insignificant. Therefore, we recommend that the County as part of their analysis for the next revaluation year examine the sales during the entire time period to determine whether time adjustments should be developed as part of their valuation process for vacant land.



Sale Ratio By Months



Report

RATIO

SALE YEAR	SALE MONTH	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	N
2005	January	.8093	.9778	.37	1.08	3
	February	.9769	.9769	.95	1.00	2
	March	1.0695	1.1102	.97	1.13	3
	April	1.4149	1.4149	.99	1.84	2
	May	.9157	.9994	.62	1.04	4
	June	1.1640	.9946	.60	2.44	7
	July	1.0141	.9857	.90	1.12	5
	August	.9996	1.0000	.99	1.01	3
	September	.9702	1.0052	.71	1.16	4
	October	.9505	.9505	.90	1.00	2
	November	.8094	.8148	.61	1.00	3
	December	.9030	.8876	.85	.97	3
	Total	1.0054	.9901	.37	2.44	41
2006	January	.9543	.9386	.89	1.05	4
	February	1.5439	1.5439	1.54	1.54	1
	March	.9174	1.0000	.63	1.08	5
	April	.7239	.6410	.51	1.14	5
	May	.7627	.7628	.54	1.11	14
	June	1.0641	1.0641	.82	1.31	2
		Total	.8508	.8657	.51	1.54



Sold/Unsold Analysis

For the 2007 revaluation year audit, an analysis was performed that confirmed that the median change in value between sold and unsold land was consistent. Since tax year 2008 is the intervening year, this relationship should not change. If there is no change in either category, the conclusions from the 2007 audit would also be applicable for the current year.

2007 - 2008 PERCENT CHANGE

CHANGE

CATEGORY	Median	N
SOLD	.0000	76
UNSOLD	.0000	1,525

The above median percent change table of sold and unsold vacant land indicates that there is no change in either category. Therefore, we can conclude that the analysis performed for the 2007 audit is also applicable for the 2008 intervening year.

VI. AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS ANALYSIS

For the 2007 revaluation year audit, a comparison was made between the improvement value per square foot of agricultural residential improvements and the rates assigned to single-family residential improvements in Elbert County. This analysis concluded that the county valued its agricultural residential improvements in a manner consistent with single-family residential improvements. Since tax year 2008 is the intervening year, this relationship should not change. If there is no change in the improvement values for both categories, the conclusions from the 2007 audit would also be applicable for the current year.

2007 - 2008 IMPROVEMENT CHANGE

IMPCHANGE

SUBCLASS CODE	Median	N
1212 Single Family Residence	.0000	6,488
4277 Farm/Ranch Residences	.0000	1,553

Since single family and agricultural improvement values did not change, we can conclude that the analysis performed for the 2007 audit is applicable for the 2008 intervening year.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

Based on this statistical analysis, there were no intervening year compliance issues concluded for Elbert County.