



2024

LINCOLN COUNTY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT STUDY





September 15, 2024

Ms. Natalie Castle
Director of Research
Colorado Legislative Council
Room 029, State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Final Report for the 2024 Colorado Property Assessment Study

Dear Ms. Castle:

East West Econometrics.-Audit Division is pleased to submit the Final Reports for the 2024 Colorado Property Assessment Study.

These reports are the result of two analyses: A procedural audit and a statistical audit.

The procedural audit examines all classes of property. It specifically looks at how the assessor develops economic areas, confirms and qualifies sales, develops time adjustments and performs periodic physical property inspections. The audit reviews the procedures for determining subdivision absorption and subdivision discounting. Valuation methodology is examined for residential properties and commercial properties. Procedures are reviewed 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.

Statistical audits are performed on vacant land, residential properties, commercial/industrial properties and agricultural land. A statistical analysis is performed for personal property compliance on the eleven largest counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo and Weld. The remaining counties receive a personal property procedural study.

East West Econometrics – Audit Division appreciates the opportunity to be of service to the State of Colorado. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harry J. Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harry" and last name "Fuller" clearly distinguishable.

Harry J. Fuller
Project Manager
East West Econometrics. – Audit Division

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INTRODUCTION



Colorado

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.

The statutory basis for the audit is found in C.R.S. 39-1-104 (16)(a)(b) and (c).

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.

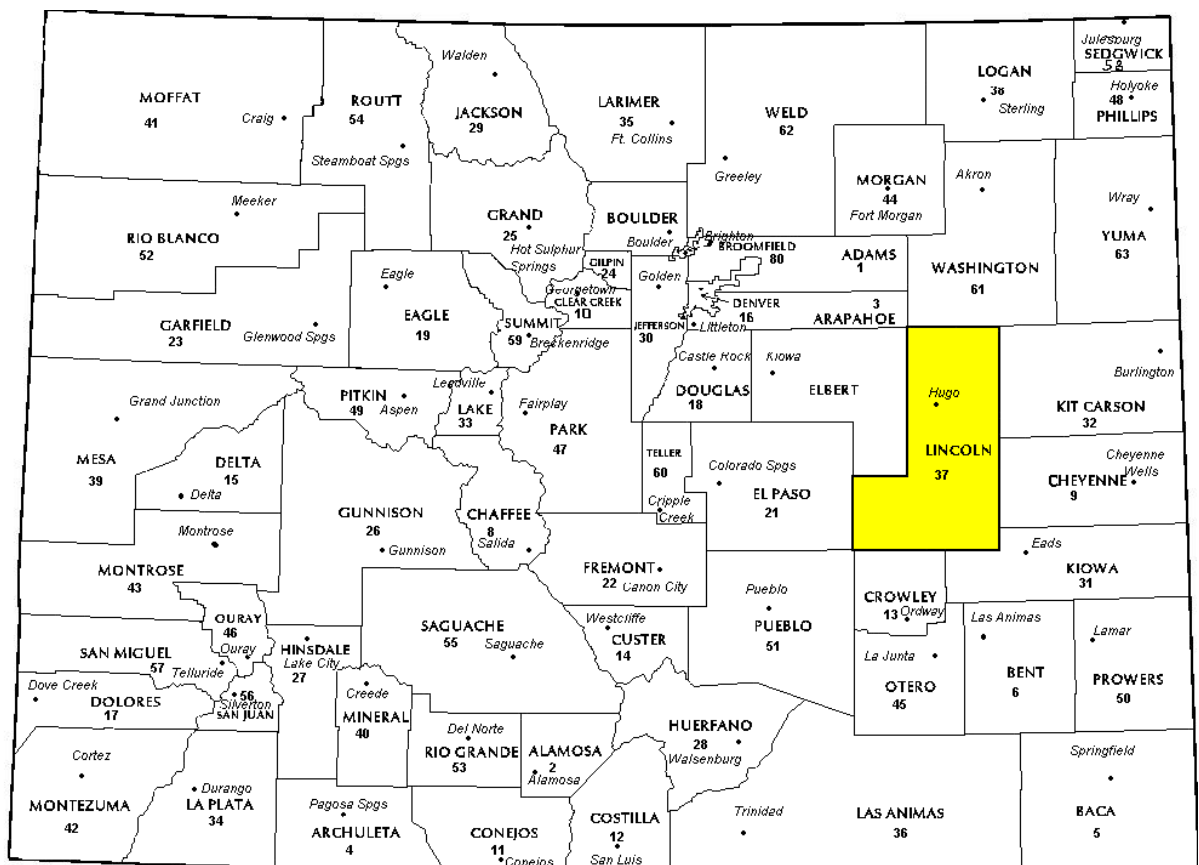
East West Econometrics has completed the Property Assessment Study for 2024 and is pleased to report its findings for Lincoln County in the following report.

REGIONAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LINCOLN COUNTY

Regional Information

Lincoln County is located in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado. The Eastern Plains of Colorado refer to the region on the east side of the Rocky Mountain. It is east of the population centers of the Front Range,

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



Historical Information

Lincoln County has approximately 2,577.59 square miles and an estimated population of approximately 5,701 people, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 estimated census data. This represents a 4.2 percent change from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019.

Lincoln County lies in the Great Plains section of East Central Colorado and includes a part of the area known as the Arkansas Divide.

The main watersheds in the county include the Arickaree and Republican Rivers in the northern part of the county, and the Big Sandy and Rush and Horse Creeks in the south. The latter Creeks ultimately drain into the Arkansas River.

Aside from nomadic Indian tribes and rare Spanish incursions, the first human visitors to this area were hopeful prospectors, crossing by the thousands en route to the gold strikes in the Pikes Peak region. The old Smoky Hill Trail runs just north of Hugo, and wagon ruts remain visible in some places.

Cattlemen came to the area in the late 1860s, and later were followed by sheep ranchers as late as 1900. The earliest homesteads were claimed in the 1880s, with land seekers continuing to moving onto government lands in this area over the next several decades. The county's population was just under 1,000 in 1900, but by 1920 it had reached an all time high of 8,273. Since then, the population has

declined until, since the 1970s, it has stabilized at around 5,000. With the closing of the open range, the cattle industry gradually changed from Texas longhorn stock to purebred stock. Lincoln County has been home to the famous Heart Rock Bison Ranch since January 2000.

Hugo is the primary community in Lincoln County and the county seat. Named for Hugo Richards, a railroad official who later was influential in California financial circles, the town sprang out of the prairie soon after the Kansas Pacific (Union Pacific) Railway construction arrived at the site of a former stage coach station known as Willow Springs on July 5, 1870. In 1889, a second railroad, the Rock Island, was built across northern Lincoln County, crossing the Union Pacific at Limon.

In the early homestead days, land seekers arrived in Lincoln County by covered wagon or any immigrant cars on the railroad. Dry land wheat, feed crops and cattle remain the primary agricultural products in this area, with corn and sunflowers also grown in parts of the county which have since come under irrigation.

As the 20th Century dawned in Lincoln County, agriculture was the backbone of the local economy. And as the 21st Century dawns, agriculture continues to hold that prominent place in the lives and in the hearts of the county's citizens.

(Wikipedia.org, Terry W. Blevins, Lincolncountyco.us, <http://Heartrockbison.com>)

RATIO ANALYSIS

Methodology

All significant classes of property were analyzed. Sales were collected for each property class over the eighteen month period from January 1, 2019 through June 30th, 2020. Property classes with less than thirty sales had the sales period extended in six month increments up to an additional forty-two months. If this extended sales period did not produce the minimum thirty qualified sales, the Audit performed supplemental appraisals to reach the minimum.

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 ensure that only true outliers were excluded. Any county with a significant portion of sales excluded by this trimming method was examined further. No county was allowed to pass the audit if more than 5% of the sales were “lost” because of trimming.

All sixty-four counties were examined for compliance on the economic area level. Where there were sufficient sales data, the neighborhood and subdivision levels were tested for compliance. Although counties are determined to be in or out of compliance at the class level, non-compliant economic areas, neighborhoods and subdivisions (where applicable) were discussed with the Assessor.

Data on the individual economic areas, neighborhoods and subdivisions are found in the STATISTICAL APPENDIX.

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 Lincoln County are:

Lincoln County Ratio Grid					
Property Class	Number of Qualified Sales	Unweighted Median Ratio	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Time Trend Analysis
*Commercial/Industrial	19	1.008	1.108	14.5	Compliant
Single Family	76	0.950	1.016	15.3	Compliant
Vacant Land	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**County Sales File augmented by one supplemental appraisal*

After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded from the sales ratios that Lincoln 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 method 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 Lincoln County has complied with the statutory requirements to analyze the effects of time on value in their county. Lincoln 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

Lincoln County was tested for the equal treatment of sold and unsold properties to ensure 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.

We test the hypothesis that the assessor has valued unsold properties consistent with what is observed with the sold properties based on several units of comparison and tests. The units of comparison include the actual value per square foot and the change in value from the previous base year period to the current base year. The first test compares the actual value per square foot between sold and unsold properties by class. The median and mean value per square foot is compared and tested for any significant difference. This is tested using non-parametric methods, such as the Mann-Whitney test for differences in the distributions or medians between sold and unsold groups. It is also examined graphically and from an appraisal perspective. Data can be stratified based on location and subclass. The second test compares the difference in the median change in value from the previous base year to the current base year between sold and unsold properties by class. The same combination of non-parametric and appraisal testing is used as with the first test. A third test employing a valuation model testing a sold/unsold binary variable while controlling for property attributes such as location, size, age and other attributes. The model determines if the sold/unsold variable is statistically and empirically significant. If all three tests indicate a significant difference between sold and unsold properties for a given class, the Auditor may meet with the county to determine if sale chasing is actually occurring,

or if there are other explanations for the observed difference.

If the unsold properties have a higher median value per square foot than the sold properties, or if the median change in value is greater for the unsold properties than the sold properties, the analysis is stopped and the county is concluded to be in compliance with sold and unsold guidelines. All sold and unsold properties in a given class are first tested, although properties with extreme unit values or percent changes can be trimmed to stabilize the analysis. The median is the primary comparison metric, although the mean can also be used as a comparison metric if the distribution supports that type of measure of central tendency.

The first test (unit value method) is applied to both residential and commercial/industrial sold and unsold properties. The second test is applied to sold and unsold vacant land properties. The second test (change in value method) is also applied to residential or commercial sold and unsold properties if the first test results in a significant difference observed and/or tested between sold and unsold properties. The third test (valuation modeling) is used in instances where the results from the first two tests indicate a significant difference between sold and unsold properties. It can also be used when the number of sold and unsold properties is so large that the non-parametric testing is indicating a false rejection of the hypothesis that there is no difference between the sold and unsold property values.

These tests were supported by both tabular and graphics presentations, along with written documentation explaining the methodology used.

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

Conclusions

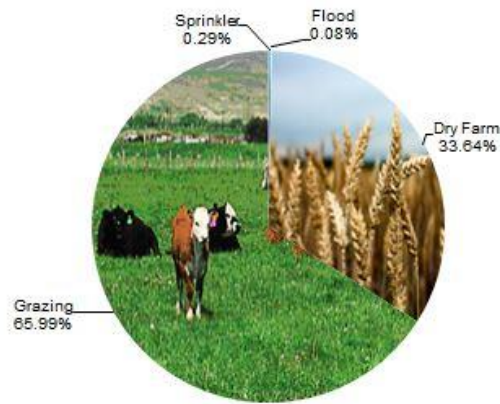
After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded that Lincoln County is reasonably treating its sold and unsold properties in the same manner.

Recommendations

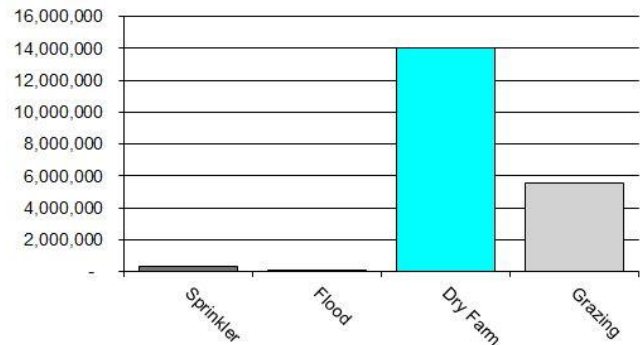
None

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:

Lincoln County Agricultural Land Ratio Grid						
Abstract Code	Land Class	Number Of Acres	County Value Per Acre	County Assessed Total Value	WRA Total Value	Ratio
4107	Sprinkler	4,273	84.48	360,969	380,678	0.95
4117	Flood	1,161	69.28	80,438	84,615	0.95
4127	Dry Farm	496,644	28.27	14,040,817	14,059,475	1.00
4147	Grazing	974,160	5.67	5,527,761	5,527,017	1.00
Total/ Avg		1,476,238	13.55	20,009,984	20,051,784	1.00

Recommendations

None

Agricultural Outbuildings

Methodology

Data was collected and reviewed to determine if the guidelines found in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3, pages 5.74 through 5.77 were being followed.

Property Taxation for the valuation of agricultural outbuildings.

Recommendations

None

Conclusions

Lincoln County has complied with the procedures provided by the Division of

Agricultural Land Under Improvements

Methodology

Data was collected and reviewed to determine if the guidelines found in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3, pages 5.19 and 5.20 were being followed.

Conclusions

Lincoln County has used the following methods to discover land under a residential improvement on a farm or ranch that is determined to be not integral under 39-1-102, C.R.S.:

- Field Inspections
- Personal Knowledge of Occupants at Assessment Date

Lincoln County has used the following methods to discover the land area under a residential improvement that is determined to be not integral under 39-1-102, C.R.S.:

- Property Record Card Analysis
- Aerial Photography/Pictometry

Lincoln County has complied with the procedures provided by the Division of Property Taxation for the valuation of land under residential improvements that may or may not be integral to an agricultural operation.

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. WRA has used the above-cited statutes as a guide in our study of the county's procedures and practices for verifying sales.

EWE reviewed the sales verification procedures in 2024 for Lincoln County. This study was conducted by checking selected sales from the master sales list for the current valuation period. Specifically EWE selected 37 sales listed as unqualified.

All of the sales in the unqualified sales sample had reasons that were clear and supportable.

For residential, commercial, and vacant land sales with considerations over \$100,000, the contractor has examined and reported the ratio of qualified sales to total sales by class and performed the following analyses of unqualified sales:

The contractor has examined the manner in which sales have been classified as qualified or unqualified, including a listing of each step in the sales verification process, any adjustment procedures, and the county official responsible for making the final decision on qualification.

The contractor has reviewed with the assessor any analysis indicating that sales data are inadequate, fail to reflect typical properties, or have been disqualified for insufficient cause. In addition, the contractor has reviewed the disqualified sales by assigned code. If there appears to be any inconsistency in the coding, the contractor has conducted further analysis to

determine if the sales included in that code have been assigned appropriately.

Conclusions

Lincoln County appears to be doing an adequate job of verifying their sales. EWE

agreed with the county's reason for disqualifying each of the sales selected in the sample. There are no recommendations or suggestions.

Recommendations

None

ECONOMIC AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Methodology

Lincoln County has submitted a written narrative describing the economic areas that make up the county's market areas. Lincoln 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 Lincoln 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 applied to determine value for production of earth and stone products. The number of tons was multiplied by an economic royalty rate determined by the Division of Property Taxation to determine income. The income was multiplied by a recommended Hoskold factor to determine the actual value. The Hoskold factor is determined by the life of the reserves or the lease. Value is 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

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

Recommendations

None

Producing Oil and Gas

Methodology

Assessors Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3, Chapter 6: Valuation of Natural Resources

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Section § 39-1-103, C.R.S., specifies that producing oil or gas leaseholds and lands are valued according to article 7 of title 39, C.R.S. Actual value determined - when.

(2) The valuation for assessment of leaseholds and lands producing oil or gas shall be determined as provided in article 7 of this title. § 39-1-103, C.R.S.

Article 7 covers the listing, valuation, and assessment of producing oil and gas leaseholds and lands.

Valuation:

Valuation for assessment.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, on the basis of the information contained in such statement, the assessor shall value such oil and gas leaseholds and lands for assessment, as real property, at an amount equal to eighty-seven and one-half percent of:

(a) The selling price of the oil or gas sold there from during the preceding calendar year, after excluding the selling price of all oil or gas delivered to the United States government or any agency thereof, the state of Colorado or any agency thereof, or any political subdivision of the state as royalty during the preceding calendar year;

(b) The selling price of oil or gas sold in the same field area for oil or gas transported from the premises which is not sold during the preceding calendar year, after excluding the selling price of all oil or gas delivered to the United States government or any agency thereof, the state of Colorado or any agency thereof, or any political subdivision of the state as royalty during the preceding calendar year. § 39-7-102, C.R.S.

Conclusions

The county applied approved appraisal procedures in the valuation of oil and gas.

Recommendations

None

VACANT LAND

Subdivision Discounting

Subdivisions were reviewed in 2024 in Lincoln 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 can be 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

Lincoln 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

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 Chapter 39-1-103 (17)(a) (II) C.R.S. Possessory Interest is defined by the Property Tax Administrator's Publication ARL Volume 3, Chapter 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.

Lincoln County has been reviewed for their procedures and adherence to guidelines when

assessing and valuing agricultural 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

Lincoln 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

Lincoln 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 requires that counties use ARL Volume 5, including current discovery, classification, documentation procedures, 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, WRA 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.

Lincoln 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
- Letters to new business owners

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.

Lincoln County submitted their personal property written audit plan and was current for the 2024 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
- 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 \$52,000 actual value exemption status

Conclusions

Lincoln 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

EAST WEST ECONOMETRICS AUDITOR STAFF

Harry J. Fuller, *Audit Project Manager*

Suzanne Howard, *Audit Administrative Manager*

Steve Kane, *Audit Statistician*

Carl W. Ross, *Agricultural / Natural Resource Analyst*

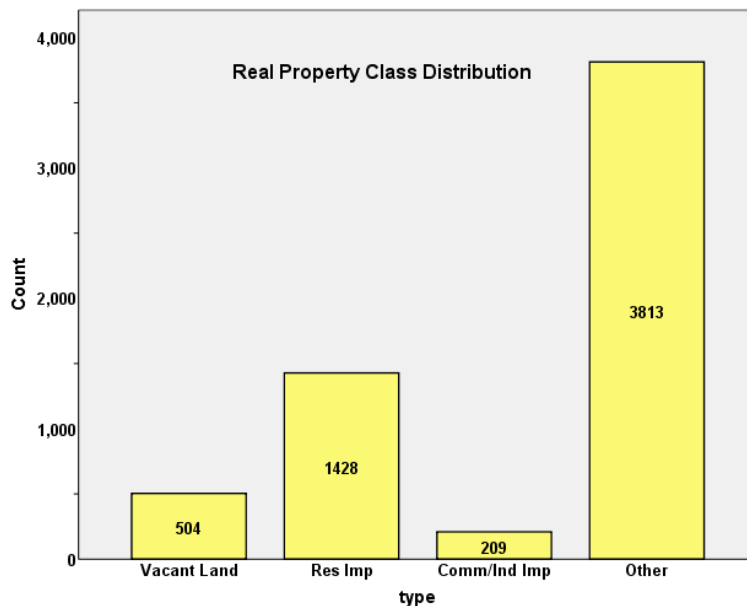
J. Andrew Rodriguez, *Field Analyst*

APPENDICES

STATISTICAL COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR LINCOLN COUNTY 2024

I. OVERVIEW

Lincoln County is an agricultural county located in eastern Colorado. The county has a total of 5,954 real property parcels, according to data submitted by the county assessor's office in 2024. The following provides a breakdown of property classes for this county:



Based on the number of vacant land parcels in Lincoln County, we were not required to analyze this class of property for audit compliance.

For residential improved properties, single family properties accounted for 94.3% of all residential properties.

Commercial and industrial properties represented a much smaller proportion of property classes in comparison.

Based on the Audit questionnaire responses from the assessor and the number of residential sales, we were able to stratify the residential sales ratio analysis by economic area.

II. DATA FILES

The following sales analyses were based on the requirements of the 2024 Colorado Property Assessment Study. Information was provided by the Lincoln Assessor's Office in May 2024. The data included all 5 property record files as specified by the Auditor.

III. RESIDENTIAL SALES RESULTS

For the residential sales ratio analysis, Lincoln County had 78 qualified residential sales for the 18-month period ending June 30, 2022. Two sales were trimmed using IAAO standards, resulting in a final total of 76 sales.

Median	0.95
Price Related Differential	1.016
Coefficient of Dispersion	15.3

We next stratified the sale ratio analysis by economic area. The following are the results of this stratification analysis:

Case Processing Summary

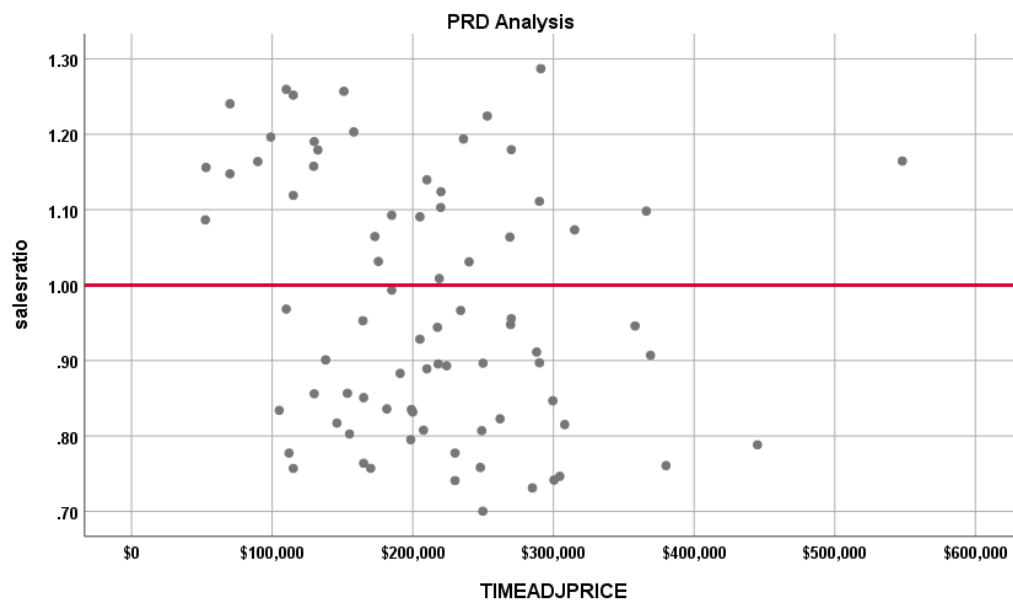
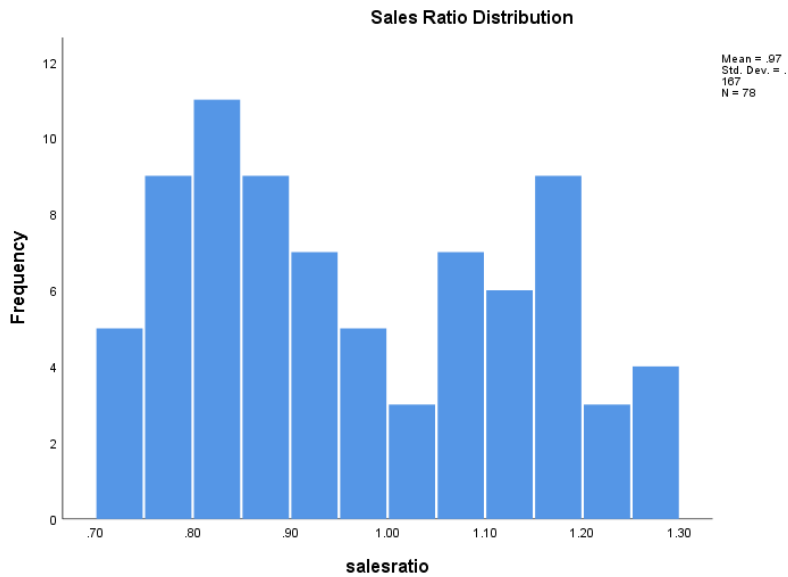
		Count	Percent
ECONAREA	1.00	36	47.4%
	2.00	24	31.6%
	3.00	16	21.1%
Overall		76	100.0%
Excluded		2	
Total		78	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion
1.00	.926	.996	.155
2.00	.920	1.039	.153
3.00	.980	1.051	.145
Overall	.947	1.019	.152

Economic Area 3 was in compliance, while Economic Areas 1 and 2 had median sale ratios below the SBOE minimum. We have consulted with the assessor to determine reasons for this, although there were only 24 sales for Economic Area 2.

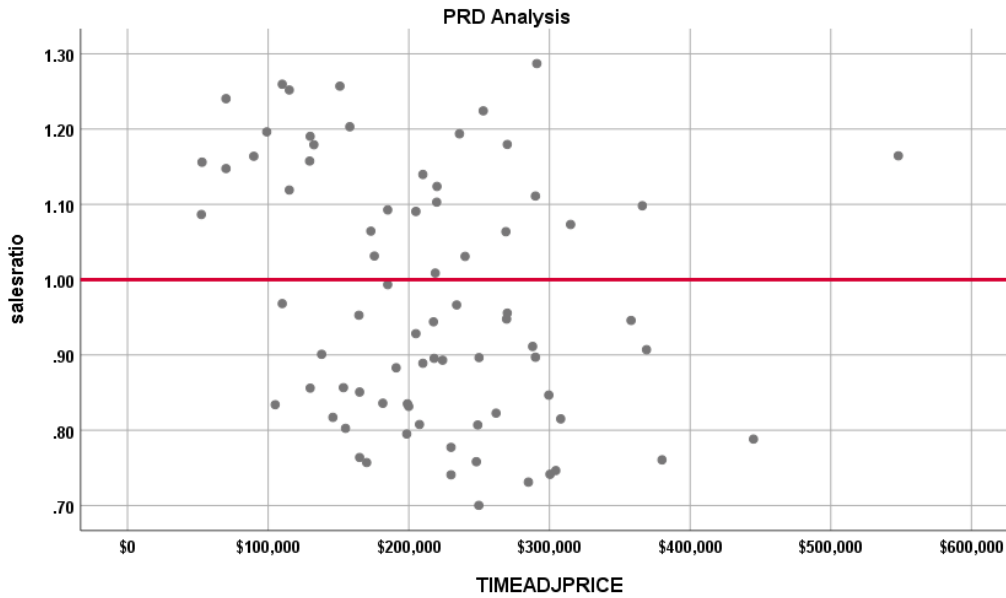
The above ratio statistics were in compliance with the standards set forth by the Colorado State Board of Equalization (SBOE) for the overall residential sales. The following graphs describe further the sales ratio distribution for all of these properties:



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

Subclass 1212 PRD Analysis

We next analyzed residential properties identified as 1212 using the state abstract code system. These include single family residences, town homes and purged manufactured homes. The following indicates the distribution of sales ratios across the sale price spectrum:



The Price-Related Differential (PRD) for the 1212-only sales in the above graph, the PRD is 1.019. This is within IAAO standards for the PRD. We also performed a regression analysis between the sales ratio and the assessor's current value to further test for regressivity or progressivity in the residential 1212 sales valuation, as follows:

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.926	.047		19.607	.000
	CURRTOT	2.342E-7	.000	.128	1.112	.270

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio

The t value in the above table indicates that the slope of the line is not significant. This in turn indicates that there is virtually no slope in the regression line, meaning that the sales ratios are similar across the entire sale price array. We also stratified the sales ratio analysis by the sale price range, as follows:

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
SPRec	LT \$100K	6	7.9%
	\$100K to \$200K	28	36.8%
	\$200K to \$300K	32	42.1%
	\$300K to \$400K	10	13.2%
Overall		76	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		76	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
LT \$100K	1.160	.995	.030	4.5%
\$100K to \$200K	.927	1.014	.158	19.1%
\$200K to \$300K	.936	1.000	.136	16.9%
\$300K to \$400K	.861	.984	.155	19.3%
Overall	.947	1.019	.152	17.7%

The above table indicates that the sales ratio distribution was more or less consistent across the sale price range for Lincoln County.

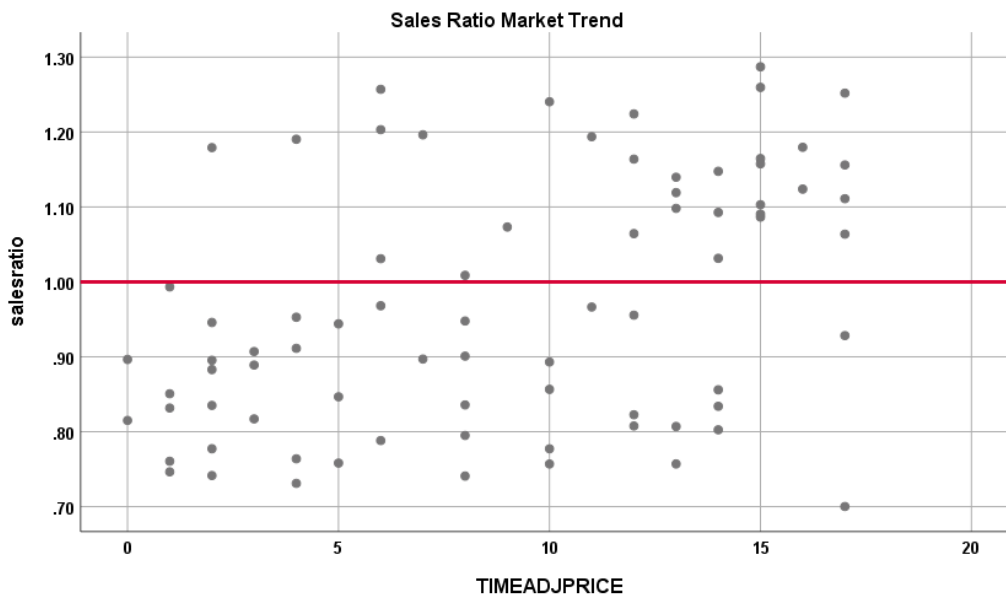
Residential Market Trend Analysis

We next analyzed the residential dataset using the 18-month sale period, with the following results:

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.849	.034		25.313	.000
	SalePeriod	.013	.003	.431	4.165	.000

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio



The above analysis indicated that there was a significant market trend in the residential sale ratio data. The significant market trend is located in Economic Area 1. We will consult with the assessor to determine the reason for this trend and possible remedies.

Sold/Unsold Analysis

In terms of the valuation consistency between sold and unsold residential properties, we compared the median change in actual value per square foot between the prior base year and the current base year for sold and unsold residential properties. The analysis was performed at the class level, as well as by economic area.

Report

DIFF			
	N	Median	Mean
UNSOLD	1349	1.20	1.74
SOLD	78	1.21	1.23

Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of DIFF is the same across categories of sold.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.255	Retain the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .00.

Report

DIFF				
ECONAREA	sold	N	Median	Mean
1.00	UNSOLD	564	1.19	1.80
	SOLD	36	1.19	1.20
2.00	UNSOLD	423	1.17	1.29
	SOLD	24	1.22	1.24
3.00	UNSOLD	315	1.28	2.30
	SOLD	16	1.27	1.28

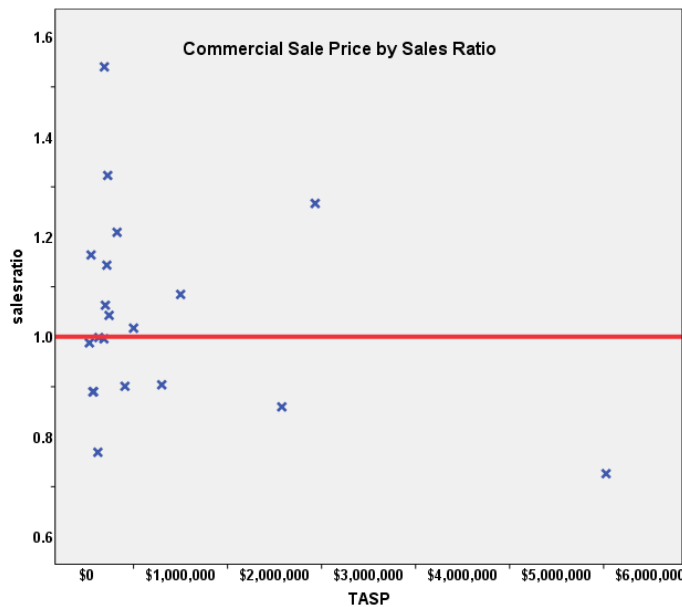
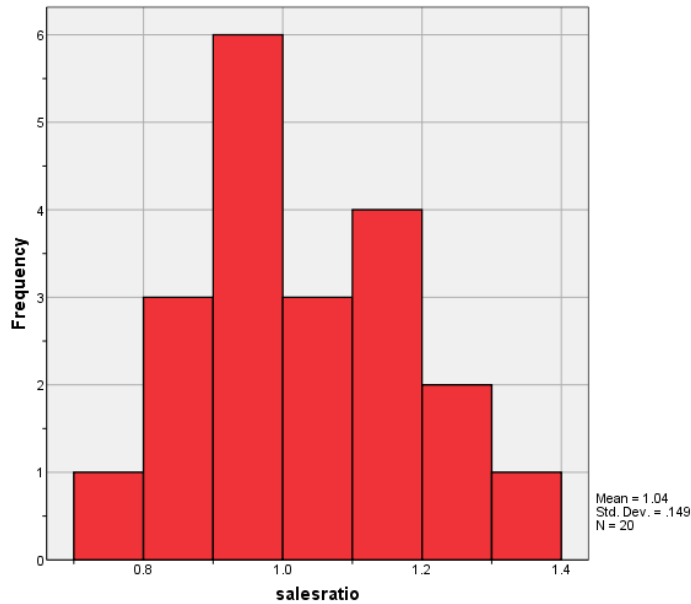
Based on these results, we concluded that the assessor has passed the Audit criteria for the residential sold and unsold comparison.

IV. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SALE RESULTS

A total of 19 **valid and qualified sales** were identified in the five year period ending June 30, 2022. Given that there were fewer than 20 sales, we augmented the qualified sales with 1 supplement appraisal of unsold commercial properties, bringing the total to 20 commercial properties for the sales ratio and sold and unsold analysis. Please note that we used the 19 sales for the market trend analysis. The sales ratio analysis results were as follows:

Median	1.008
Price Related Differential	1.108
Coefficient of Dispersion	14.5

The above table indicates that the Lincoln County commercial/industrial sale ratios were in compliance with the SBOE standards, both overall and by relevant subclass (none in this case due to the small number of sales). The following histogram and scatter plot describe the sales ratio distribution further:



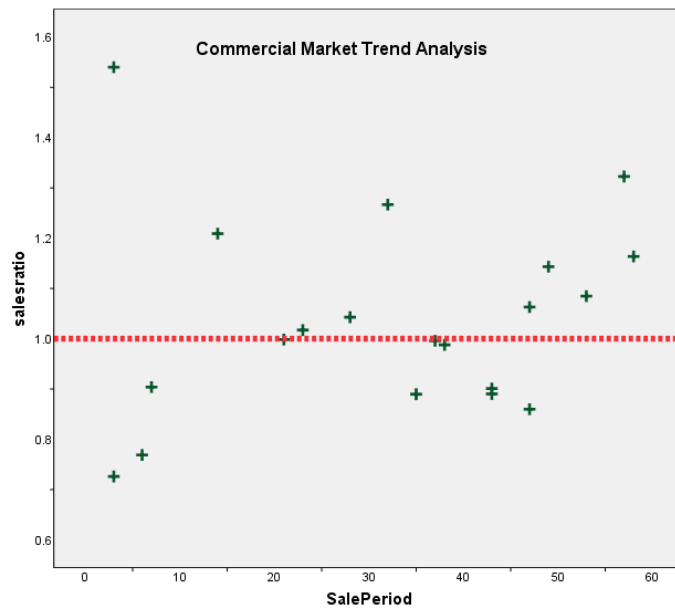
Commercial Market Trend Analysis

The 19 commercial/industrial sales were analyzed next to verify that the assessor properly applied market trend adjustments to the commercial sales:

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.992	.093		10.724	.000
	SalePeriod	.001	.003	.134	.574	.573

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio



Sold/Unsold Analysis

We compared the median percent change in value between the prior base year and the current base year for sold and unsold commercial properties to determine if the assessor was valuing each group consistently. The following results indicate that based on the median percent change in value, both groups were valued in a consistent manner:

Report

DIFF	N	Median	Mean
UNSOLD	186	1.12	1.17
SOLD	20	1.11	1.18

Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of DIFF is the same across categories of sold.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.890	Retain the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .00.

We also stratified this comparison analysis by commercial subclass, as follows:

Report

DIFF	ABSTRIMP	sold	N	Median	Mean
2212.00	UNSOLD		31	1.11	1.18
	SOLD		3	.96	.95
2215.00	UNSOLD		10	1.36	1.34
	SOLD		4	1.40	1.38
2220.00	UNSOLD		21	.90	.98
	SOLD		3	.97	1.34
2230.00	UNSOLD		53	1.12	1.18
	SOLD		4	1.14	1.13
2235.00	UNSOLD		49	1.12	1.16
	SOLD		2	1.13	1.13

V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on this statistical analysis, there were no significant compliance issues concluded for Lincoln County as of the date of this report.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

Residential

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP												
Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Median	95% Confidence Interval for Median			Weighted Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Weighted Mean		Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Mean Centered
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Actual Coverage		Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
.969	.931	1.007	.945	.889	1.031	96.9%	.954	.914	.993	1.016	.153	17.2%

The confidence interval for the median is constructed without any distribution assumptions. The actual coverage level may be greater than the specified level. Other confidence intervals are constructed by assuming a Normal distribution for the ratios.

Commercial/Industrial

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP												
Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Median	95% Confidence Interval for Median			Weighted Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Weighted Mean		Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Mean Centered
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Actual Coverage		Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
1.039	.947	1.131	1.008	.901	1.143	95.9%	.938	.728	1.148	1.108	.145	18.9%

The confidence interval for the median is constructed without any distribution assumptions. The actual coverage level may be greater than the specified level. Other confidence intervals are constructed by assuming a Normal distribution for the ratios.

Vacant Land

Not applicable

Residential Median Ratio Stratification

Subclass

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	1212.00	76	97.4%
	1230.00	2	2.6%
Overall		78	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		78	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1212.00	.947	1.019	.152	17.7%
1230.00	.767	1.000	.013	1.9%
Overall	.945	1.016	.153	17.8%

Age

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
AgeRec	Over 100	8	10.3%
	75 to 100	13	16.7%
	50 to 75	23	29.5%
	25 to 50	23	29.5%
	5 to 25	6	7.7%
	5 or Newer	5	6.4%
Overall		78	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		78	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
Over 100	1.007	.977	.183	19.9%
75 to 100	1.031	1.033	.128	15.3%
50 to 75	.953	1.023	.153	19.0%
25 to 50	.895	.993	.143	17.8%
5 to 25	.915	1.032	.147	20.3%
5 or Newer	.911	1.013	.093	13.5%
Overall	.945	1.016	.153	17.8%

Improved Area

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ImpSFRec	500 to 1,000 sf	12	15.4%
	1,000 to 1,500 sf	39	50.0%
	1,500 to 2,000 sf	19	24.4%
	2,000 to 3,000 sf	8	10.3%
Overall		78	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		78	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
500 to 1,000 sf	1.027	1.028	.141	15.5%
1,000 to 1,500 sf	.896	1.029	.153	19.1%
1,500 to 2,000 sf	.911	1.011	.139	17.1%
2,000 to 3,000 sf	1.131	.991	.112	15.2%
Overall	.945	1.016	.153	17.8%

Quality

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
QUALITY	1 - Low	4	5.1%
	3 - Fair	31	39.7%
	5 - Average	37	47.4%
	7 - Good	5	6.4%
	9 - Very Good	1	1.3%
Overall		78	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		78	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1 - Low	.867	.990	.092	12.8%
3 - Fair	.928	1.045	.177	20.3%
5 - Average	.953	1.013	.147	17.4%
7 - Good	.946	.983	.110	15.5%
9 - Very Good	.911	1.000	.000	.
Overall	.945	1.016	.153	17.8%

Condition

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
CONDITION	1 - Low	2	2.6%
	2 - Fair	6	7.7%
	3 - Average	46	59.0%
	4 - Good	23	29.5%
	5 - Very Good	1	1.3%
Overall		78	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		78	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1 - Low	1.194	1.000	.039	5.5%
2 - Fair	.868	1.044	.163	22.3%
3 - Average	.954	1.008	.157	18.3%
4 - Good	.897	1.012	.134	16.9%
5 - Very Good	.911	1.000	.000	.
Overall	.945	1.016	.153	17.8%

Commercial Median Ratio Stratification

Sale Price

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
SPRec	\$25K to \$50K	2	10.0%
	\$50K to \$100K	2	10.0%
	\$100K to \$150K	2	10.0%
	\$150K to \$200K	3	15.0%
	\$200K to \$300K	3	15.0%
	\$300K to \$500K	3	15.0%
	\$750K to \$1,000K	1	5.0%
	Over \$1,000K	4	20.0%
Overall		20	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		20	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
\$25K to \$50K	1.076	.981	.082	11.6%
\$50K to \$100K	.890	1.000	.000	0.0%
\$100K to \$150K	.884	.995	.130	18.4%
\$150K to \$200K	1.063	1.001	.171	32.0%
\$200K to \$300K	1.143	1.002	.082	12.7%
\$300K to \$500K	1.017	1.013	.101	15.6%
\$750K to \$1,000K	.904	1.000	.000	.
Over \$1,000K	.972	1.090	.197	24.7%
Overall	1.008	1.108	.145	19.7%

Subclass

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	1718.50	1	5.0%
	1889.00	1	5.0%
	2212.00	3	15.0%
	2215.00	4	20.0%
	2220.00	3	15.0%
	2227.50	1	5.0%
	2230.00	4	20.0%
	2232.50	1	5.0%
	2235.00	2	10.0%
Overall	20	100.0%	
Excluded	0		
Total	20		

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1718.50	1.540	1.000	.000	.
1889.00	1.143	1.000	.000	.
2212.00	.988	1.018	.092	14.4%
2215.00	.972	1.090	.197	24.7%
2220.00	.890	.963	.110	16.8%
2227.50	.996	1.000	.000	.
2230.00	1.021	1.023	.114	18.5%
2232.50	1.209	1.000	.000	.
2235.00	.961	1.014	.059	8.3%
Overall	1.008	1.108	.145	19.7%

Age

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
AgeRec	Over 100	1	5.0%
	75 to 100	3	15.0%
	50 to 75	6	30.0%
	25 to 50	6	30.0%
	5 to 25	4	20.0%
Overall		20	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		20	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
Over 100	1.143	1.000	.000	.
75 to 100	.988	1.013	.092	14.4%
50 to 75	.997	.974	.075	11.9%
25 to 50	.994	1.119	.196	28.0%
5 to 25	1.142	1.191	.185	24.6%
Overall	1.008	1.108	.145	19.7%

Quality

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
QUALITY	1 - Low	11	55.0%
	3 - Fair	2	10.0%
	5 - Average	3	15.0%
	7 - Good	3	15.0%
	9 - Very Good	1	5.0%
Overall		20	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		20	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1 - Low	1.017	.964	.156	22.4%
3 - Fair	1.114	1.017	.026	3.7%
5 - Average	.996	1.097	.068	10.8%
7 - Good	.901	1.082	.200	31.8%
9 - Very Good	.904	1.000	.000	.
Overall	1.008	1.108	.145	19.7%

Condition

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
CONDITION	2 - Fair	3	15.0%
	3 - Average	15	75.0%
	4 - Good	2	10.0%
Overall		20	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		20	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
2 - Fair	1.267	.940	.088	15.9%
3 - Average	.998	1.178	.139	20.0%
4 - Good	1.022	1.038	.119	16.8%
Overall	1.008	1.108	.145	19.7%

Vacant Land Median Ratio Stratification

Not applicable