



2019

# WASHINGTON COUNTY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT STUDY

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**WILDROSE**  
APPRAISAL, INCORPORATED  
**Audit Division**



September 15, 2019

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

**RE: Final Report for the 2019 Colorado Property Assessment Study**

Dear Ms. Mullis:

Wildrose Appraisal Inc.-Audit Division is pleased to submit the Final Reports for the 2019 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.

Wildrose Appraisal Inc. – 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 that reads "Harry J. Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Harry J. Fuller  
Project Manager  
Wildrose Appraisal Inc. – Audit Division

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# INTRODUCTION

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## 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.

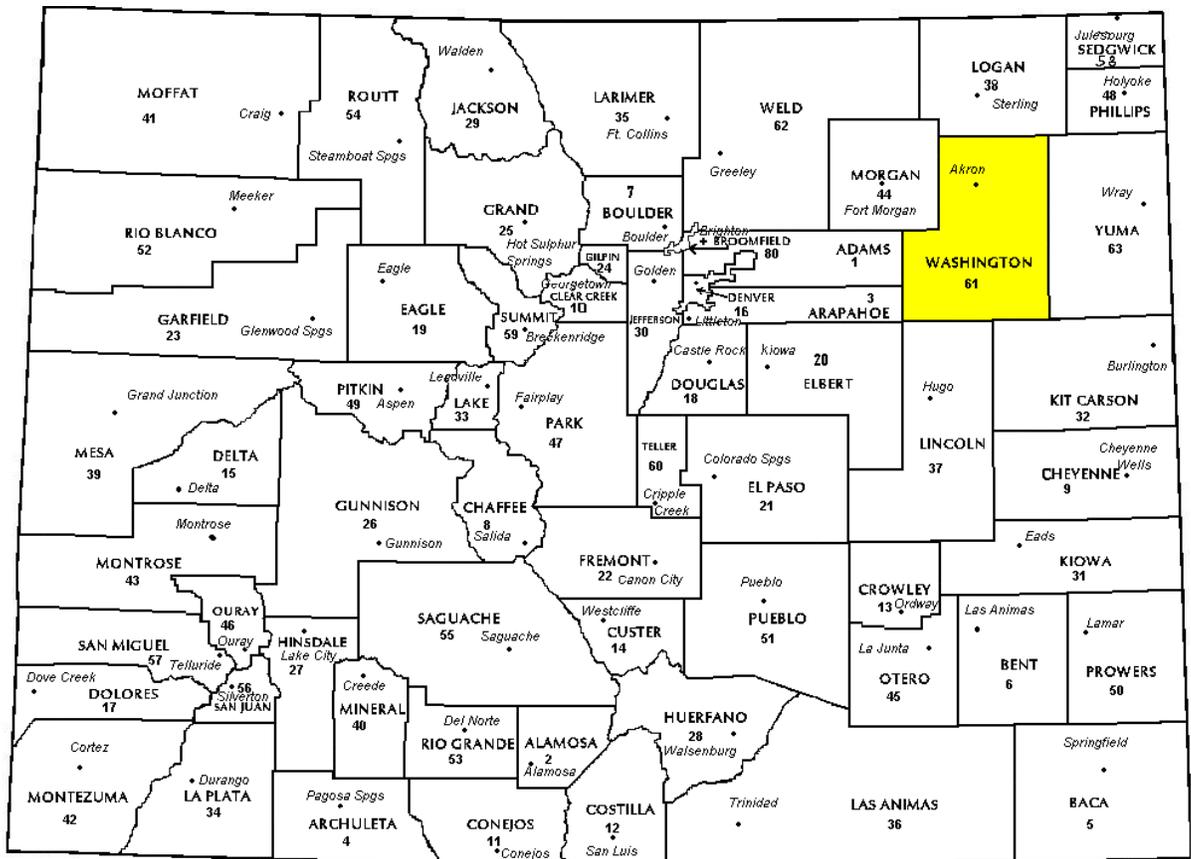
Wildrose Audit has completed the Property Assessment Study for 2019 and is pleased to report its findings for Washington County in the following report.

# REGIONAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

## Regional Information

Washington 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

Washington County had an estimated population of approximately 4,908 people with 1.9 people per square mile, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 estimated census data. This represents a 2.0 percent change from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016.

Washington county was named in honor of United States President George Washington and is one of the largest counties in Colorado with over 2,500 sq. miles. Akron is the county seat

Washington County was once a dangerous and rugged place for both native Americans and settlers. On July 11, 1869, Summit Springs was the sight of a bloody conflict between Cavalry Soldiers, Cheyenne and Sioux Indians. Today, four stones mark the battle, which is north of Akron on Highway 63. The most current marker is for Susannah Aldrich, who had been captured and killed by chief Tall Bull who was killed in turn by Major Frank North. Buffalo Bill Cody participated in this battle and later

recreated it in his Wild West Show. There is a fence that separates the monuments from the private ground where the battle occurred and where the actual springs are located.

Although the plains are peaceful now, it's easy to imagine the scenes of history that took place in this wide-open county. Farming is a vital industry in Washington County. This county is a major dry land wheat producer. The other major crop is millet. There are two birdseed factories in the area. Akron has been home to one of the largest, for over 40 years, with the second largest located in Otis.

The museum in Akron contains a lot of the county's rich history, artifacts and memorabilia. Prewitt Reservoir, a great place for fishing and camping, is in the northwest part of the county. The county abounds with pheasant and other wildlife. Once a year in September, pilots from all over the nation visit Akron, Colorado for the National Radial Engine Exhibition.

*(www.Wikipedia.org, www.northeastrpd.org)*

# 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018. 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 Washington County are:

Washington County Ratio Grid					
Property Class	Number of Qualified Sales	Unweighted Median Ratio	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Time Trend Analysis
*Commercial/Industrial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Condominium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Single Family	89	0.973	1.014	10.9	Compliant
Vacant Land	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*\*Due to the small number of sales, a procedural audit was performed.*

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

Washington 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.

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

**Conclusions**

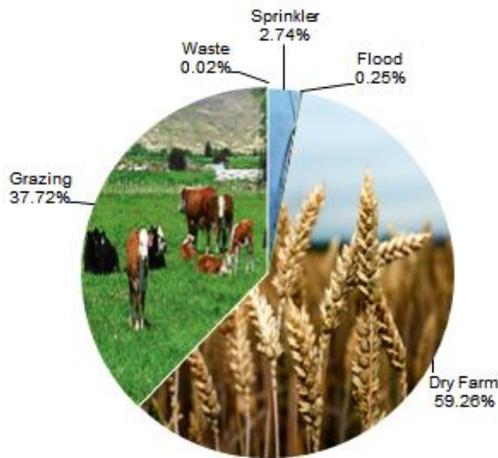
After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded that Washington County is reasonably treating its sold and unsold properties in the same manner.

**Recommendations**

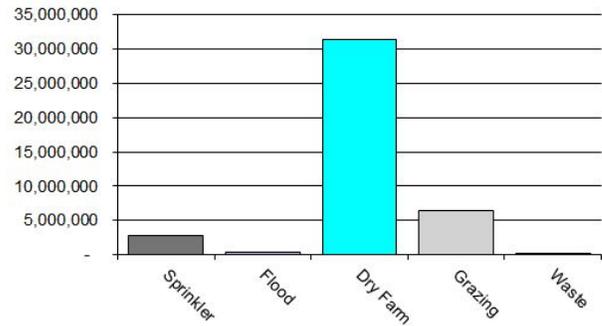
None

# 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:

<b>Washington County Agricultural Land Ratio Grid</b>						
<b>Abstract Code</b>	<b>Land Class</b>	<b>Number Of Acres</b>	<b>County Value Per Acre</b>	<b>County Assessed Total Value</b>	<b>WRA Total Value</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
4107	Sprinkler	40,745	70.57	2,875,370	2,987,072	0.96
4117	Flood	3,751	101.93	382,352	401,092	0.95
4127	Dry Farm	882,117	35.67	31,467,085	32,842,573	0.96
4147	Grazing	561,489	11.58	6,502,057	6,502,057	1.00
4167	Waste	367	2.39	876	876	1.00
<b>Total/Avg</b>		<b>1,488,469</b>	<b>27.70</b>	<b>41,227,739</b>	<b>42,733,670</b>	<b>0.96</b>

### **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.

### **Conclusions**

Washington County has substantially complied with the procedures provided by the Division of Property Taxation for the valuation of agricultural outbuildings.

### **Recommendations**

None

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## Agricultural Land Under Improvements

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### 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

Washington 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.:

- Questionnaires
- Field Inspections
- In-Person Interviews with Owners/Tenants
- Written Correspondence other than Questionnaire
- Personal Knowledge of Occupants at Assessment Date
- Aerial Photography/Pictometry

Washington 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
- Questionnaires
- In-Person Interviews with Owners/Tenants
- Written Correspondence other than Questionnaire
- Personal Knowledge of Occupants at Assessment Date
- Aerial Photography/Pictometry

Washington County has substantially 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.

WRA reviewed the sales verification procedures in 2019 for Washington County. This study was conducted by checking selected sales from the master sales list for the current valuation period. Specifically WRA selected 43 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.

When less than 50 percent of sales are qualified in any of the three property classes (residential, commercial, and vacant land), the contractor analyzed the reasons for disqualifying sales in any subclass that constitutes at least 20 percent of the class, either by number of properties or by value, from the prior year. 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.

If 50 percent or more of the sales are qualified, the contractor has reviewed a statistically significant sample of unqualified sales, excluding sales that were disqualified for obvious reasons.

The following subclasses were analyzed for Washington County:

- 0100 Residential Lots
- 2130 Special Purpose
- 2135 Warehouse/Storage
- 2230 Special Purpose
- 2235 Warehouse/Storage
- 3115 Manufacturing/Processing
- 3215 Manufacturing/Processing

### **Conclusions**

Washington County appears to be doing a good job of verifying their sales. WRA 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**

Washington County has submitted a written narrative describing the economic areas that make up the county's market areas. Washington 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 Washington 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

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## Earth and Stone Products

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### 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

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## Producing Oil and Gas

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### 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

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**Washington County is exempt from the Vacant Land Subdivision  
Discount Study.**

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# 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.

Washington County has been reviewed for their procedures and adherence to guidelines when assessing and valuing agricultural and

commercial 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

Washington 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

Washington 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.

Washington 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
- MLS Listing and/or Sold Books
- Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Contacts
- 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.

Washington County submitted their personal property written audit plan and was current for the 2019 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
- Incomplete or inconsistent declarations
- Accounts with omitted property
- Businesses with no deletions or additions for 2 or more years



- Non-filing Accounts - Best Information Available
- Accounts close to the \$7,700 actual value exemption status
- Accounts protested with substantial disagreement

### **Conclusions**

Washington 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

## WILDROSE 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*

# STATISTICAL APPENDIX

**STATISTICAL COMPLIANCE REPORT  
 FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY  
 2019**

**I. OVERVIEW**

Washington County is an agricultural county located in northeastern Colorado. The county has a total of 16,451 real property parcels, according to data submitted by the county assessor’s office in 2019. The following provides a breakdown of property classes for this county:



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

For residential improved properties, single family properties accounted for 97.5% of all residential properties.

Commercial and industrial properties represented a much smaller proportion of property classes in comparison. Commercial/industrial properties accounted for 1.1% of all such properties in this county.

Based on the Audit questionnaire filled out by the assessor (see below), the following geographic levels were used by the assessor to value residential, commercial and vacant land properties:

Geo Area	Residential	Comm/Ind	Vacant Land
Economic Area			
Neighborhood	V	V	V
Subdivision			

*Codes*

*V=Valid Geographic Level – used for modeling*

*N = Not used as Geographic Level for modeling*

## II. DATA FILES

The following sales analyses were based on the requirements of the 2019 Colorado Property Assessment Study. Information was provided by the Washington Assessor’s Office in June 2019. The data included all 5 property record files as specified by the Auditor.

## III. RESIDENTIAL SALES RESULTS

There were 89 qualified residential sales for the 18-month sale period ending June 30, 2018. The sales ratio analysis results were analyzed as follows:

Median	<b>0.973</b>
Price Related Differential	<b>1.014</b>
Coefficient of Dispersion	<b>10.9</b>

We next stratified the sale ratio analysis neighborhood, as follows:

### Case Processing Summary

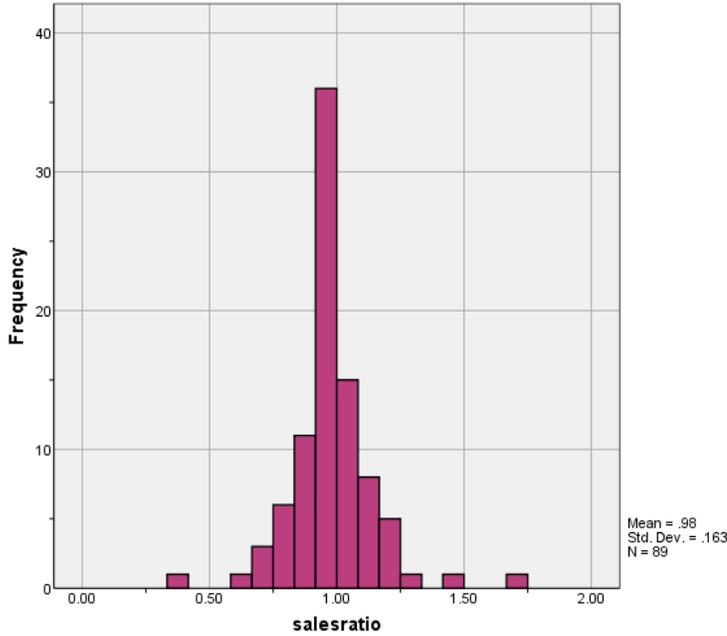
	Count	Percent
NBHD 1	66	74.2%
2	13	14.6%
3	7	7.9%
4	3	3.4%
Overall	89	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	89	

### Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion
1	.969	.991	.091
2	.961	1.101	.173
3	.990	1.066	.116
4	1.016	1.043	.163
Overall	.973	1.014	.109

Only Neighborhood 1 had sufficient sales; its results were in compliance. 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. No sales were trimmed.

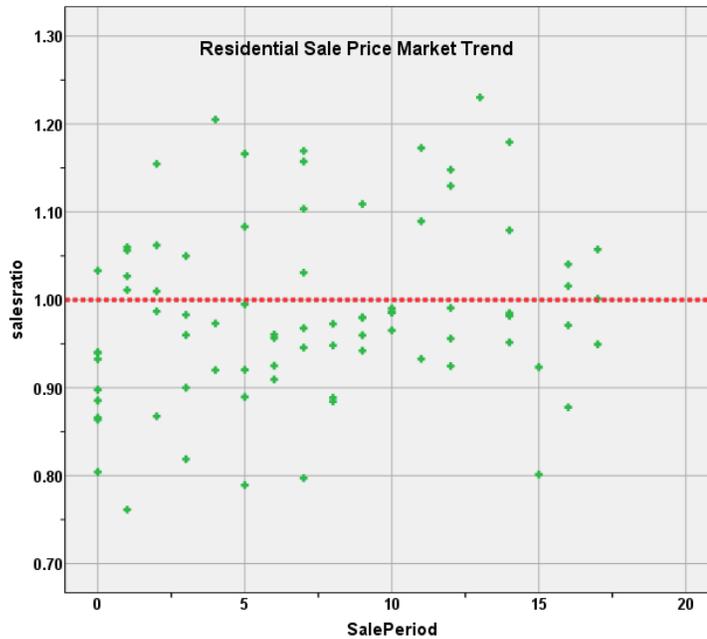
### Residential Market Trend Analysis

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

**Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	.956	.019		49.528	.000
	SalePeriod	.004	.002	.196	1.779	.079

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio



The above analysis indicated that no market trend was present in the sale ratio data. We concur with the assessor that no market trend adjustments were warranted.

**Sold/Unsold Analysis**

In terms of the valuation consistency between sold and unsold residential properties, we compared the median value per square feet between sold and unsold residential properties, as follows;

<b>Report</b>			
VALSF			
sold	N	Median	Mean
UNSOLD	1137	\$63	\$69
SOLD	88	\$72	\$79

### Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of VALSF is the same across categories of sold.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.002	Reject the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .01.

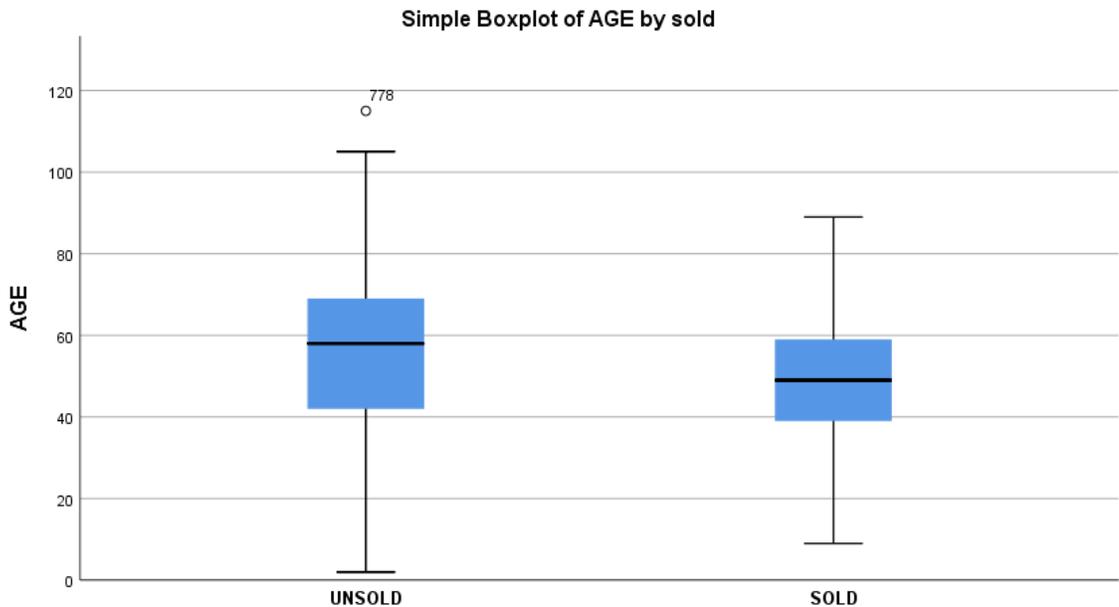
Given that there was a significant difference between sold and unsold residential properties using this metric, we next compares the median change in actual value between taxable years 2018 and 2019 for sold and unsold residential properties, as follows:

#### Report

DIFF	N	Median	Mean
UNSOLD	1134	1.24	1.44
SOLD	89	1.43	1.52

Since there remained a significant difference, we next compared differences in property attributes between sold and unsold residential properties, such as age and quality:

		sold	
		UNSOLD	SOLD
QUALITY	Count	0	1
	% within sold	0.0%	1.1%
AVERAGE	Count	577	59
	% within sold	50.3%	66.3%
FAIR	Count	388	16
	% within sold	33.8%	18.0%
GOOD	Count	51	9
	% within sold	4.4%	10.1%
LOW	Count	128	4
	% within sold	11.2%	4.5%
VERY LOW	Count	3	0
	% within sold	0.3%	0.0%
Total	Count	1147	89
	% within sold	100.0%	100.0%



Based on this comparison analysis, the sold residential properties were newer and of superior quality as compared to unsold residential properties. We concluded that this likely explained all or most of the valuation difference observed between sold and unsold residential properties, and not due to the assessor applying different valuation methods to each group.

#### **IV. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SALE RESULTS**

The County did not have enough qualified commercial/industrial sales to be statistically significant. A procedural audit was completed for taxable year 2019. This analysis reviewed all qualified commercial sales. Information was gathered concerning class of property, year built, improvement size, type and quality of construction, condition at the time of sale, sale date and amount and the Assessor value. The audit then determined sale price per square foot and the sales ratio. The audit concluded that the County is in compliance due to the lack of substantive data to support a revaluation decision.

#### **V. CONCLUSIONS**

Based on this statistical analysis, there were no significant compliance issues concluded for Washington County as of the date of this report in terms of residential and agricultural residential properties.

**STATISTICAL ABSTRACT**

**Residential**

**Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP**

Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Median	95% Confidence Interval for Median			Actual Coverage	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	Lower Bound			Upper Bound				
.981	.947	1.016	.973	.949	.987	96.7%	.968	.931	1.005	1.014	.109	16.6%	

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**

NOT APPLICABLE



**Residential Median Ratio Stratification**

**Sale Price**

**Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
SPRec	LT \$25K	6	6.7%
	\$25K to \$50K	13	14.6%
	\$50K to \$100K	29	32.6%
	\$100K to \$150K	20	22.5%
	\$150K to \$200K	15	16.9%
	\$200K to \$300K	6	6.7%
Overall		89	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		89	

**Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP**

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
LT \$25K	1.084	.993	.129	19.3%
\$25K to \$50K	1.027	1.001	.114	20.1%
\$50K to \$100K	.965	1.004	.095	16.0%
\$100K to \$150K	.962	.997	.094	12.9%
\$150K to \$200K	.946	.999	.088	10.9%
\$200K to \$300K	1.070	1.010	.154	19.7%
Overall	.973	1.014	.109	16.8%

**Subclass**

**Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	.00	1	1.1%
	1212.00	88	98.9%
Overall		89	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		89	

**Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP**

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
.00	.391	1.000	.000	.
1212.00	.973	1.014	.103	15.6%
Overall	.973	1.014	.109	16.8%

## Age

### Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
AgeRec	0	1	1.1%
	Over 100	18	20.2%
	75 to 100	28	31.5%
	50 to 75	25	28.1%
	25 to 50	9	10.1%
	5 to 25	8	9.0%
Overall		89	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		89	

### Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
0	.391	1.000	.000	.
Over 100	.963	1.019	.067	10.4%
75 to 100	.972	1.051	.117	19.0%
50 to 75	.946	1.013	.094	12.1%
25 to 50	.985	1.001	.058	8.7%
5 to 25	1.162	1.025	.105	14.5%
Overall	.973	1.014	.109	16.8%

## Improved Area

### Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ImpSFRec	0	1	1.1%
	500 to 1,000 sf	25	28.1%
	1,000 to 1,500 sf	42	47.2%
	1,500 to 2,000 sf	16	18.0%
	2,000 to 3,000 sf	5	5.6%
Overall		89	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		89	

### Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
0	.391	1.000	.000	.
500 to 1,000 sf	.948	1.057	.105	14.6%
1,000 to 1,500 sf	.980	1.015	.078	13.9%
1,500 to 2,000 sf	1.010	1.033	.132	18.4%
2,000 to 3,000 sf	1.130	1.027	.118	20.4%
Overall	.973	1.014	.109	16.8%

## Improvement Quality

### Case Processing Summary

	Count	Percent
QUALITY	1	1.1%
AVERAGE	59	66.3%
FAIR	16	18.0%
GOOD	9	10.1%
LOW	4	4.5%
Overall	89	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	89	

### Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
	.391	1.000	.000	.
AVERAGE	.973	.983	.081	11.9%
FAIR	1.021	1.005	.109	18.8%
GOOD	.819	1.001	.063	8.3%
LOW	1.141	.980	.109	18.4%
Overall	.973	1.014	.109	16.8%

## Improvement Condition

### Case Processing Summary

	Count	Percent
CONDITION	1	1.1%
-10	1	1.1%
-15	1	1.1%
-20	1	1.1%
AVERAGE	85	95.5%
Overall	89	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	89	

### Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
	.391	1.000	.000	.
-10	1.157	1.000	.000	.
-15	.995	1.000	.000	.
-20	1.173	1.000	.000	.
AVERAGE	.971	1.011	.102	15.7%
Overall	.973	1.014	.109	16.8%