

**Do you have any additional comments about this survey or tourism in Tucker County?**

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**Activities for Kids**

- We need theaters, bowling alleys, more for teens. – Hambleton

**Affordable Housing**

- need affordable housing such as condos for people who visit several times a year.
- There is no affordable housing in Tucker County. Most residents earn minimum wage or live on social security. The rents range from \$500 to \$700 a month plus utilities. This is basically for very run down housing with a few exceptions. Housing should be the number 1 priority in Tucker County.
- I am worried that out of area people will buy properties and drive the values up to the point that locals working for less money will be unable to pay property taxes. There needs to be a change in the tax code to reflect people living and working locally so we can afford to stay here.
- Tourism is a two side coin – It taxes local services, raises housing prices so locals cannot afford to buy or even rent in some cases.
- Tourism has caused the housing in the area to be very unaffordable for residents. We need to remember that there are folks here who need to live in a decent home that they can afford. I know tourists bring in the income but they are here for a short amount of time. – Canaan Valley

- We need affordable housing for the working class people to move here **before** development and tourism happen. – Davis
- Affordable housing should be a priority to keep this place special. – Thomas
- Tucker County has a housing problem that is being caused in part by tourism and corporate greed. You should be addressing housing and the problems of your poor instead of bringing I more miscellaneous tourist traps and outsiders. – Davis
- The biggest roadblock is the lack of personnel to fill positions and the lack of affordable seasonal housing. – Dryfork
- Need more suitable housing for residents, apartment complex, housing developments, more rentals and better living conditions. We returned here over 20 years ago, housing options haven't improved at all.

#### **Attractive Businesses**

- The business owners need to clean store fronts and alleys.

#### **ATV's**

- Need to stop four wheelers on roads.

#### **Brain Drain**

- We need to keep our business owners and managers and their families here as in the past, instead of living in Elkins. Their intellectual input is sadly missed by the community.

#### **Commercialization**

- I love Tucker County and I don't want to see it ruined by a lot of commercialism but I do think if it is done right it can be made into the best vacation spot and a place for locals to live and work.

- Have felt strongly for many years that this area was too great to become “Anywhere, U.S.A.” with the fast food joints and chain stores, etc. Tucker County will lose its uniqueness. Its beauty will be lost or hidden. The County must find a way to maintain its character and specialness.
- Tourism can be good and bad. Just got back from a trip to Alaska and Canada – the cruise ships have destroyed many towns. We learned the saying “Let Alaska be Alaska” – Its wildness, and at times, difficulty getting services, are part of its charm. There is a lot we can do to improve our area for ourselves and tourists – but we need to keep our character – wild and beautiful – not for everyone.
- Any development tourism or otherwise should be done in a way that preserves the quaintness and simplicity of the area. No strip malls, chain restaurants or stores.
- Tourism can be very good for a community, but owns the risk of attracting the wrong kind of people and becoming too commercialized. As long as Tucker County stays true to its roots and involves the residents in planning and decision making, we should be fine. Don’t crowd out the residents by bringing in things not wanted or needed. Our local resident concerns should be of utmost importance, not the once every couple of years tourist. – St. George
- Tourism should not be a carnival event. – Parsons
- Tucker County is a unique place and the area should aim to keep that small town/local charm. No big box stores, support unique businesses! – Canaan Valley
- In this document page 3#3 – Things like strip malls, big box stores, theme parks, casinos are very incompatible with the wild nature of this area drawing tourists.
- Don’t turn it into Deep Creek Lake – avoid overdevelopment. Promote small locally owned businesses instead of chains. – Canaan Valley
- Overall I have a positive opinion about tourism in Tucker County. I would like to see the tourism strengthened yet the “small town” feel and the small business culture be preserved. I would hate to see any big businesses or chains to start to pop up here because it would ruin the magic here. I would like to see a continuation of the push for music, art, and outdoor activities as the main focus here
- We don’t want more or any fast food restaurants or other national businesses that can be found in other places

## Communication

- Communication is important for any endeavor. This survey is a beginning.

## Community Input

- The community needs to have more information and decision making about projects **BEFORE** they happen!
- I believe everyone involved in nature/adventure tourism is doing a pretty good job (art/music communities as well) I think public opinion in large decisions is necessary and not well advertised or heard. I'm mainly talking about the federal government coming in and bulldozing perfectly good trails in the name of tourism. – Thomas
- Community forums to talk about this ISSUE so people can buy in not be told this is what we are going to do. – Parsons
- Tourism can be very good for a community, but owns the risk of attracting the wrong kind of people and becoming too commercialized. As long as Tucker County stays true to its roots and involves the residents in planning and decision making, we should be fine. Don't crowd out the residents by bringing in things not wanted or needed. Our local resident concerns should be of utmost importance, not the once every couple of years tourist. – St. George
- Thank you for asking our opinions. – Thomas
- Appreciate the opportunity to participate in thoughtful process of tourism development. – Canaan Valley
- This state is a treasure to keep it this way. We have assets in place – improve Canaan, Blackwater Falls. Let locals vote by mail on any changes. – Hendricks

## Corridor H

- we need roads in Tucker to bring people here – 60 plus years to get Corridor H to this point is a national shame while others get miles and miles of roads –

- Finish Corridor H. would love to have a highway to Morgantown and/or Clarksburg rather than the back roads.
- We have an incredible new road in Corridor H that brings the Metro DC population very close to our bounty of outdoor recreation opportunities and our arts and music. But the facilities (Timberline, Canaan Valley) are not making the necessary upgrades and improvements.

### **Dilapidated Buildings**

- We have lots of old houses and buildings that need to be torn down or repaired. Lots of autos sitting around, lots of junk. Want people to come – clean place up.
- City development should assist owners of tumbled down building to remove debris! – Thomas
- Parsons had never recovered from the Flood of 1985. It needs a lot of help, also downtown St. George. It would be wonderful if someone such as Woodlands Development would acquire the Frances Pinto House on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Lil Shaffer House at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and Brown Street and rehab them like the Nordek House on Spruce Street, and then sell them at market rate to responsible owners. – Thomas
- I realize that there's a lot about property rights and people minding their own business in the culture of WV and a history of raw survivalism and coal industry. It's not like the Midwest but if there was some way to disincentivize property owners who close their business from allowing the location to be an **EYESORE!** It's humiliating. A culture of accountability, pride and personal dedication to tourism in Tucker County and its overall beautification improves the entire soul of this amazing place. An attitude of gratitude will take on farther than poverty mind set. Thank you! I'm so glad you asked. I love it here and wish I could make it a better place! Tucker County tourism is the focus of conversation for my friends here and I want to have friendships with people who appreciate and value this place.

### **Diversify Economy**

- Tourism is fine, but should not be the sole outlook for the future of Tucker County.

- We should not focus on tourism as the main economic driver.
- The other side of the coin is it introduces an isolated rural culture to an outside view of things, it can serve as a stepping stone for more diverse economic opportunities.
- We need jobs on which that would bring tourism. – Parsons

### **Downtown Improvements**

- complete restoration of Central Opera House and restoration of Front Street Buildings and Brown Street Buildings, upgrade buildings in Davis and put electrical underground on Main Street in Davis. Remove electric poles.

### **Ecotourism**

- We need to move to a more non-motorized (i.e., bikes/running/rolling) friendly community
- It is great to be able to express yourself. Tourism should not destroy the area but should maintain and fix all of the natural resources in the area for the enjoyment of anyone who cares to come here and appreciate it (not abuse it). Allow people to hike and bike across the National Wildlife Refuge. They don't harm wildlife (they love it). Hunters who are allowed kill the animals (I thought it was a refuge). Buy Blackwater Canyon for the public. Corruption allowed to it to be bought by Crites Lumber: Shame!
- Tourism is a broad term from Ace Mountain Bikers to Blue Hair bus tours. We have incredible resources and attractions in place for hikers, bikers, boaters, and skiers. Improve those; make them world class in access and facilities. Broaden the appeal of these attractions with some quality evening activities: dining, dancing, theater. Finish the Thomas Opera House, bring in some shows.
- Hopefully from this survey, the powers that be can maximize the tourist dollars coming into the country, and at the same time, minimize the damage/wear and tear on our precious resources. You should call it "Responsible Tourism". – Thomas
- If the tourist would go to Canaan Valley and look at the beautiful scenery: Our clean streams and camping. – Parsons

- For improvements here in Tucker to increase tourism: #1. Make rivers, streams much more accessible not just for locals. Improve aquatic life for better fishing (more catch and release for trout too). To me the main thing here to shoot for is outdoor adventure to pull in more people of all ages here. Better fishing, camping, hiking, boating etc. the trout stocking here is just ridiculous – Dropped into the same holes and elbow to elbow fishermen – It’s like a carnival game – So sad! – Parsons

## **Growth Management**

- Keep communities small and friendly.
- We moved to Tucker County 23 years ago to have a slower lifestyle. Where else can you go that there’s one total red light in your total county? I live in the real world. I know things change but it’s not always for the better. We helped raise 3 grandchildren here. The two oldest have graduated from college – have great jobs – the youngest has a wonderful job. I feel living in Tucker County gave these kids a strong bond with the community.
- It is very important to communicate and organize and guide the growth process instead of letting the growth that is coming guide us. I think that is what this survey is about. Thanks.
- Corridor H when finished will offer easy access to Tucker County. Careful planning to control growth, minimize the impact of tourism on the environment, yet provide a great tourist experience.
- We love it the way it is!
- Not interested in further development. Simply hone/improve current tourism.
- Thank you! I’ve lived here my whole life. I’m excited to see things changing (but a little apprehensive too). I hope we can manage the growth in a smart sustainable way. Also, I think it would be cool to see Tucker County set the standard for encouraging growth while at the same time protecting the environment. We are one of the few counties moving successfully in that direction. – Hendricks
- Tucker County is a unique community that should be preserved the way it is. If you change that then the community will never be the same. – Davis

- I think Tucker County needs to be developed thoughtfully. – Thomas
- Tourism should not be “developed” but “managed”. We do not need more tourism, they are coming in any case. We need to have them meet **OUR** expectations, not the other way. – Davis
- I feel that it hasn’t been tapped into and it’s still in the beginning stages of discovery which is sweet.
- I feel very strongly about planning for tourism and that we need to keep chain stores to a minimum! While keeping the small town “feel”. There needs to be more capable workers before businesses can survive. I would like the focus to be on resorts. – Davis
- I understand that tourists are essential to support the businesses in Tucker County. I think we already get them though. To draw more tourists would mean more hotels, stores, vacation homes, etc., that would come with it. Then we would lose the small town charm and open untouched land. And I don’t want to see prices go sky high, or homes being too expensive for locals to own. – Davis
- Just a peaceful, serene place to be a part of to raise your children, grandchildren, etc. Slower paced yet achievement oriented. Our beautiful surroundings in town and out are incomparable. – Thomas
- It is always a fine line between keeping the integrity of a community and the unique and special things about it that attracts people (tourists etc.) in the first place. Usually it does start with a place where artists feel comfortable because it is affordable and there are possibilities. Then this artistic vibe starts to happen – cafes, galleries, music venues – but in a grassroots informal way – Then something starts to happen – Other people see the possibilities that the artists first saw and they want to come in on it too in some way – More people come in, prices go up – And then you get a place that is not so affordable and the “**ARTISTIC VIBE**” turns into pricy boutique type shops and venues. And the artists/creatives get priced out and the integrity of the place is lost. Happens over and over look at Brooklyn, NY – the artists are always the ones on the frontier of things and then when it is discovered, it has to move on and create a new frontier. I feel this could happen to Thomas and Davis. – Davis
- Development is good but will require serious investment and concentration on planning and managing growth to avoid negative impacts on what draws tourists to Tucker County. Development needs confined (primarily) to areas already developed – Primarily Davis and Thomas and existing developments. It **MUST** be consistent with and compatible with current uses and historic, cultural and architectural development. Wild

areas need to stay wild. Development in towns and the valley need to be modeled after areas like Lewisburg or Shepherdstown, maintaining their historic and cultural appeal. Development in the valley must be localized in and near existing development, low impact, and visually compatible with the wild, rural nature of the valley. Adequate water and sewer service protecting existing high quality streams is essential. Proper regulating ambient light, preventing and even reducing existing light pollution, is also essential to preserving and enhancing the area's dark night skies. – Dryfork

- If tourism would increase and development of subdivisions in the area I would still sale my property and leave, because I came here for peacefulness and a community based area. – Davis
- In order for success. Change is inherent. However change should always be carefully considered with thoughtful planning. – Dryfork
- No. Mainly, I would like to see the area developed in a way that the natural beauty and scenic area can be an attraction, while developing it in a way where there are things to do for tourists – in all four seasons. To bolster the local economy in a way much like Gatlinburg, TN. – Red Creek
- Tourism is vital however no one wants to see the Tucker County environmental landscape altered negatively. With tourism comes the demand for goods and services and this can be done properly with proper planning.
- As much as we value tourism, we would like to keep our community as small and close as we can. It is very tight-knit community that may be overshadowed and would risk losing the small quaint character with the addition of more large tourists, resorts, and attractions.
- I believe tourism has helped this county stay afloat. Without revenue from tourism our communities would not thrive like they do. The separation between tourist centered areas of the county is apparent I the activity and daily life of its people. Attractions such as skiing and state parks bring in many tourists. The areas, like Leadmine, are still small, tucked away communities which ae thriving much the same way as they have for years. We (Leadmine) have the YLA, campgrounds and hiking trails that bring in tourists; but only if there've been here before. Small communities without those things are very quiet, especially since the flood of 1985
- We need zoning.

- Whatever tourism is promoted should never interfere with the lifestyle of the local residents. Tourism must accentuate the positive of the area and respect the people living here. It must never become the number one priority – if that would create friction and discord. All parties must work harmoniously for the betterment of the County – to help it become “all that it can be”.
- It’s nice to keep the serenity of the communities away from the resorts and main attractions and not have them continuously filled with tourists.
- This survey proceeds as though the slate is clean. But it’s not, of course. Consider the Refuge (The 500<sup>th</sup>) and the influence it’s had (and is having) in shaping locational decisions in the valley. The big given is the presence of so many natural areas. Add to that the growing urban influence and you get some really difficult issues. The Federal government, which you haven’t talked about, will be an important player too.
- Any efforts to promote tourism in this area must first consider how it will protect and strengthen community members’ quality of life. We need to consider place making, and there must be communication between communities.

### **Handicap Accessibility**

- Great place to live. Businesses need to be mandated for handicap. Accessibility to their business or **NO** city license. – Parsons

### **Heritage Tourism**

- 1. There are residents of Tucker County who need to realize that the future of Tucker County is not coal and timber, 2. It would be a wonderful idea to develop/build a museum to celebrate the heritage of timbering in Tucker County,
- I would love to see more historical culture growth in Tucker County, i.e., battlefields, signage, monuments, re-enactments, etc. – Thomas
- If Parsons does not do something to attract new businesses/attractions it is going to slowly die out like so many small towns have. There is a lot of history here, even our address is part of history. A very interesting story about life in a civil war military encampment. – Parsons

- I believe we are missing an opportunity with Battlefield. There is a large historic following that would help local businesses if the battlefield could be developed into a historic park with history-related events. – Parsons.

### **Indoor Activities**

- I believe we need to concentrate on getting this area to accommodate 4 season tourism with things to do even on rainy days for whole families. Should be economical for all incomes. Something like maybe a mini Universal Studio Theme Park. We should be thinking outside the box!!!
- I'd really like to see a nice, indoor gathering place in Parsons that includes food and a bar with live music, especially in the winter months.

### **Internet**

- Tourism is part of a **balanced** economy. We would greatly improve employment if great, high speed internet was available – this is also good for tourists and gives the idea we are a progressive town. – Canaan Valley
- The internet situation is miserable, the providers do not care about giving good service. Without good coverage growth will stagnate. – Canaan Valley
- Better broadband is critical. Next to impossible to get internet access on busy weekend in Canaan Valley.

### **Jobs vs Tourism**

- Tourism is nice, but Tucker County needs industry. Less dependence on government jobs.
- I feel we have a great state for tourism but it seems that is all the state government wants to promote. We need more good paying jobs.
- We need to create jobs in Tucker Co. People have to work more than one part time job to make ends meet. Some people travel 1-2 hours a day to go out of town to work because they can't make a living in Tucker Co. Tourism is great – but we also need good paying jobs! If we don't get jobs we are going to lose a lot of people – they will have to move where there are jobs!

- I think tourism might help our community some but I feel we mostly need industries. We have a lot of blue collar workers that need jobs here so they can make a decent living and support their families. I feel this would help more than a lot of small businesses and stores and places for tourists to come to. Sorry.
- I find it a sad commentary that tourists are the top priority by leadership in this state. When citizens began to be referred to as consumers, we lost our sight of what's important for our country. Our coal mines, lumber mills, tannery etc., used to provide a good standard of living for many residents. My hope is that no one in Tucker County would need any government assistance.
- Tourism helps nobody but the rich. We are all out of work just paying bills. Tourism is a flash in the pan for the people who make their life here.
- We need work in Tucker County. We live in a beautiful county, but there isn't much work. No work means no money to live on.
- Instead of focusing on tourism our elected official should be locating companies to locate here so that residents wouldn't have to drive great distances to work.
- We need jobs. We have enough tourism; Blackwater Falls, two ski resorts, Canaan Valley State Park. These resorts only pay part time employees with no benefits. We have an industrial park setting empty on Route 93.
- We do not need tourism. We need real jobs where people can make a decent wage.
- Tourism is fine in that it does provide some jobs, helps college students pay tuition and sometimes supports small local shops. Tucker County needs more gainful employment. We are both retired now, but the last few years my husband worked out of state. My main concern has always been to get a factory located here.
- Tourism alone cannot support Tucker County! We need jobs that will pay a decent wage (Ex: mines, charcoal plant, lumber mills). We have a good source for workers if they were encouraged to find employment, even part time jobs would be acceptable.
- We need coal miners to continue working.
- Tourism is fine for Tucker County, it's a beautiful place, but we need some industry too, we need jobs that pay the families here can't make it on all these low paying jobs. All our children are leaving the state to make a living.

- Tourism is a business which benefits very few people especially in Tucker County. The County is largely state and federal government lands. We need to utilize what is left so people can live somewhat comfortably by paying bills, raising a family, supporting education, owning their own home and possibly recreating and enjoying their own surroundings. Being financially fit assists in accomplishing many goals. Tourism is a very minute part of it.
- Most of the tourism jobs are minimum wage and without good benefits; maids, waitress, custodians, cooks. We need better paying jobs and I do not think more tourists is the answer for my community.
- Because I have a long view I believe there's a need for a more balanced approach to the needs of Tucker County residents: that of production industry. Residents of Tucker County will not be served well by jobs focused only on tourism. Tourism is wonderful, but lonely one segment of a healthy economy. Production of material goods provides more stability for families.
- No industry for higher paying jobs
- What is your point! We need manufacturing and industry but we don't have any intellect in our capital. It doesn't even matter about the politics non one does anything there or in D.C.
- We need jobs in Tucker Co. Jobs that pay above minimum wage, jobs that help our children stay in WV. With all the highway/interstates we should have an ample amount of interest in bringing business to Tucker County. Stop bringing in tourists – BRING JOBS. Tucker County people are workers who care greatly about our county and its well-being but the government seems to care more about tourists than our county residents. How does tourism improve the quality of life when it provides a minimal wage and no benefits (insurance, sick leave etc.). If a job offers insurance, it is so expensive the wage earner can't afford it. Getting paid twice monthly 1<sup>st</sup> check's mostly deduction for insurance leaves very little to live on/raise a family/afford your own home. HELP US GET JOBS IN THIS COUNTY!! – Canaan Valley
- Tourism isn't all we need either – it's jobs. Someone needs to do a study on this! Most locals are retired on a fixed income or young people who have learned to work the system to get all the welfare they can, for as long as possible. I see this every day! Tucker County needs businesses that are larger, can use trucks to move product and offer more than part-time. Tourism is fine and it helps but putting people to work off welfare and drugs is more important. – Red Creek

- Tucker County has mostly retirement people so we do not need tourism. We need jobs for young people so they can afford to live in Tucker County not low paying tourism jobs. Most people that have tourism jobs have to work 2 jobs to make ends meet because tourism is always low paying jobs and no benefits and usually not 40 hours just part time. - St. George
- I wish we really didn't need tourism for an income. A lot of people want a better life in the future for their families. I wish WV wasn't considered a backwoods state. – Unknown
- Tucker County doesn't need any more tourists. What the county needs are manufacturing jobs that pay a decent wage. The young people that go to school here have to leave here to find a job that can support a family. You cannot raise a family on tourism wages because fresh air and scenery will not pay bills and feed a family and pay the taxes that we pay and are used to support the tourism industry. I and my husband had to work two jobs and have a farm in order to raise our children and give them an education through high school and yes we both worked in the tourism industry. He worked at Canaan Valley State Park and I worked at Canaan Valley Lodge for 27 years. My daughter and her husband started out in the Park and had to quit and leave the County to find better jobs. They drive to Elkins to work. I will not vote for any official that supports tourism. Thank you for giving me a place to let my feelings known. I am giving you my name and address. I don't want to participate in any drawing. God Bless You. – Red Creek
- You send us industry not low paying minimum wage tourism jobs. – St. George
- While tourism is for the most part “green”, it is also very discretionary and dependent on the overall economy. It is not the magical cure for WV financial woes. It is also a very weather dependent industry. Tourism is a “fickle” industry. We need steady industry here. Why not a health/trauma center located on Route 93 (Corridor H)??? – Parsons
- Should be limited to what time of the year, our taxes shouldn't raise due to tourism, we pay too much taxes now. Extra police force when tourist here. Our community should feel safe and our hometown workers need pay increases instead of wasting money to tourism

## Leadership

- We have a mayor in Davis who constantly fights against development and revitalization. – Davis
- I should say that our local tourism money is getting manipulated by the wrong people. CVR and Canaan Valley rental and sales agencies contribute more money to the county and tourism and are ignored by local government?? Smitty and Company suck. – Canaan Valley
- There are many dedicated and active residents who are trying to see a better community and I congratulate them for their dedication and efforts. – Parsons

### **Locals vs Outsiders**

- I believe tourism should be the lure we need to bring people to live here permanently, to rebuild our communities and institutions, to participate fully in civic life. Tourists in general come for a short time, they contribute financially but do not fully build community.
- If you try to have a law enforced on a local, you will be bullied. Two kids riding their ATV were deliberately rammed by a State Cop. He was trying to kill people for riding on the road. There is a war against ATVs. An American Indian was dragged behind a truck because locals thought he was Mexican. A Puerto Rican woman was threatened for not being American. This is not a nice place for outsiders. When my project is finished I'm moving and rue the day I thought I'd be happy here. Outsiders i.e., Feds and NGO's have bullied the locals for years over land. Naturally locals reciprocate.
- If more things become available I think it is important locals can afford them. To consider average income our area and accommodate fees (if any) for example skiing is great but I cannot afford to take my family regularly and therefore it's no benefit to us yet it is so close. Ledmine
- My husband and I opened a tourism based business in 2015. We received little support from the CVB Development Authority, etc. The CVB is concentrating his efforts on Thomas and then Davis. The new businesses in Thomas and Davis are wonderful. However, there is huge divide between young/new to the area business owners and long-term residents. There has always been a divide between Parsons and "The Mountain" but there is a new distinguishment, Thomas vs Davis vs Valley, etc. this divide will only hurt our efforts.
- Outsiders – takes long time to be accepted. – Hendricks

- to see less of a divide from the people who don't believe in or have a closed-minded perspective of the type of people these things attract.
- The biggest problem here is out of state people buying up everything and driving up prices and pushing out what few decent paying jobs we have

### **Low Wages and Seasonal Jobs**

- We all know that a \$15.00 an hour will only mean fewer jobs
- Tucker County seems to be selected by “uppers” to remain pristine, and no jobs but low paying tourism wages.
- Yes. Many in our community have lost jobs due to outside interference. Coal industry closed down. Our natural resources we have depended on for a living. No good paying jobs. Low paying. Many have left for better opportunities.
- Tourism has not benefited anyone. The wages are so low that people have just exist or work two low paying jobs. Some of us had to leave to work and come home only when retired. People here who work in food service do not even make minimum wage, rely on tips and tourists are stingy and pay little.
- Year round employment opportunities would greatly increase the standard of living of residents. Part time, seasonal jobs discourage young people from staying in the area.
- Worries about low paying jobs created.
- Tourism is a good thing, but it does not supply decent paying jobs. All businesses have a seasonal cycle. A lot of up and down – weather is a big factor. Corridor H will not be a big business draw unless infrastructure of these small can be improved.
- Interesting. Some days, tourism good. Other days it can be limiting. Seasonal changes cause problem either too much or not enough snow consistently for winter. Lack of good local gathering places. Number of older retirees to do the work when tourists go home varies.
- I believe we need to concentrate on getting this area to accommodate 4 season tourism with things to do even on rainy days for whole families. Should be economical for all incomes. Something like maybe a mini Universal Studio Theme Park. We should be thinking outside the box!!!

- As stated before, for tourism and the communities to survive, tourism related jobs must pay a wage that affords its employees the opportunity to support themselves and their family. – Davis
- Tourism is great if it provides jobs and gains money for Tucker, not just passing through. – Parsons
- Tourism is a vital part of our community, but it is seasonal at best. Most tourism industry workers barely get by. – Davis

## Marketing

- The town of Davis has an efficient information center which can accommodate the tourism needs.
- Surveys are only effective if change occurs so please make changes accordingly. Tucker County has a huge opportunity to grow and prosper and now is the time to do it with Corridor H being completed. Marketing dollars should also be invested and a lot can be done through social media.
- Marketing **must** improve... The new commercials are awesome but we need more! Our CVB is awesome but they need **more support** and more money. A regional tourism map of Tucker must be developed!!! At the very least Canaan – Davis – Thomas regional tourism map.
- I think Tucker has made great strides in the past few years of marketing the entire County and area. This also needs to be done with lodging, etc. The more businesses can work together on marketing and communicating the vision of Tucker the “better” for all residents.

## More Amenities

- Tourism attractions/development should be more family oriented.
- off road path between Thomas & Davis is essential! Good for tourism, good for locals!
- There needs more to do in the evenings after skiing, or after golf or any daytime activities.

- We need rooms for visitors to spend the night or ever how long they stay. We need a clothing store where people can buy clothes or shoes in Parsons for whatever they forgot to bring.
- We need motel in Parsons.
- Try to look at what's available to tourists as an extension of what's available to residents. Given the funds and leadership to create interesting playgrounds, nature centers and historic facilities for residents, by extension, you create welcoming features for tourists. Places like skating rinks can entertain our young people and visitors as well.
- Thomas has such a draw of tourists with Tip Top Coffee Shop and the Purple Fiddle and our other shops. We can draw a large crowd of 3,000 to 4,000 tourists for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. More money should be pumped into this area for tourism. We get a tremendous amount of tourists from the Washington D.C. area. It is amazing to drive through town and see all of the different states the tourists come from.
- I would like to comment about your thesis study on Tucker County Tourism. I'm a relocate to this area from Baltimore and after almost 18 years here and working in the community, tourism isn't the only thing we need. The area is being suppressed by national wildlife and other groups who want to keep available land remote and underdeveloped. If you don't hike, bike, hunt, fish, ski, camping here is boring. Everything is so seasonal related and this new generation needs things to do constantly especially in bad weather. There are no indoor activities for them. No movies, bowling alley, arcades. You have to drive 40 minutes to 1 hour for this, they don't want to do this. We also might be losing one of our 2 ski resorts this year due to bankruptcy and total mismanagement. This is activity lost in winter and revenue and jobs. Corridor H is nothing if you don't have something to come to. We are in competition with Deep Creek Lake which offers a lot more than Tucker County
- It would be nice to have more places to visit and more people to visit the area, new businesses and opportunities. – Hendricks
- There is **NOTHING** in Parsons! If I did not live here I would **not** visit! If you need anything it is a drive to Elkins or Oakland, MD. – Parsons
- I keep praying for more restaurants that don't close the same day. More houses/hotels that can accommodate the elderly with handicap accessibility. More things are needed as population ages – not all can use everything. Indoor pool for all public use, Wellness Center. – Canaan Valley

- I think it is a great thing, helps us to grow, maintain what we have, qualify for federal grants to improve things, etc.! – Thomas
- We have places that we set aside for wildlife; we also need designated trails for the public. - Canaan Valley
- There are very limited activities for people with disabilities or mobility challenges. – Parsons
- We need to show, statistically to our residents and government leaders how important tourism is in this area. We need to complete our tourism package by having venues for concerts, lobbying for a wildlife center and a tourist railroad to Dolly Sods. We could also benefit greatly by having music and art festivals on a regular basis.
- I would love for businesses to know that if they are not ADA/Accessible they are reducing their clientele by 1/5<sup>th</sup> or more. WV has the highest rate of disability in the US, but the worst accessibility. If customers can't get into a business or use the bathroom safely they will not spend money and will not come back. – Thomas
- 1) Canaan Valley Resort used to have an outstanding naturalist program, excellent teachers took children each day on hikes, and the children (and parents) loved it! Return this program! 2) The restaurants are ok – grade B- to C or less) – better and more imaginative restaurants are badly needed. 3) Support the availability of organic/local/farm-fresh produce: Highland Market. - Davis
- The Blue Grass Festival in Parsons attracts thousands. Great venue.
- FEMA buyout downtown. I personally begged city do not do. We have to have new houses built on vacant properties when buyout occurred. We need new business in flood zone. There is nowhere else to build. – Parsons
- Usually tourists have money and need a place to spend it. Shops in Thomas are improving. That helps. – Thomas
- Family biking on Timberline Road. Sidewalk riding/trail needed on Timberline Road for the many families who rent in the area on vacation but who are at risk of death because of speeding “workers” renting also in the area or full time residents. Model the safety zone off of any Colorado Ski Area road/trail system. – Canaan Valley

- Having spent close to 50 years in the convention trade show business. I have encouraged Resorts, etc., to build (cheap) exhibit space when they have enough sleeping and meeting rooms for conventions. Folks come, drop their money and leave. If they are impressed, they return.

### **National Park**

- Again pursue the combining of Blackwater Falls State Park and Canaan Valley State Park into a National Park.
- Nothing is more important to me than parks and recreation. I sincerely wish that the area was incorporated into the National Park System as it was proposed. – St. George

### **No Tourism**

- Keep it at a minimum. More law enforcement where tourism is highest in Canaan Valley.
- Build a wall along state borders! Just like we will do with Mexico, to keep tourists out.
- I think it is a joke our local leadership wants tourism and the people of my community think they are a joke.
- Clean up Thomas – and now the Hippie Generation is moving into Davis – AWFUL.
- Tourists are a pain – most bring their food and drinks with them – do not spend money in the area. They are rude obnoxious and try to take over your property. The county would be much better without them.
- Tourism – very rude and are hazardous to our County – They park in middle road – take pictures – speed thru town – They use our County as a playground – leave very little for our County – There are more drugs, alcoholics. We do not need this in our retired county – Tourists think they can do anything they want in our county.
- Not happy that US Fish and Wildlife have bought so much of the properties of the area and the government control that exists concerning those properties. – Canaan Valley
- If it is developed for tourists/ leave it alone – but don't waste more \$\$ on tourists. I believe we have enough tourists!
- We have enough public lands. They produce no income to speak of. – Canaan Valley

- Sorry that my comments – Strong disagreement with persons seeking to ruin this area by promoting invasion of city people. – Canaan Valley.
- This used to be the most beautiful place in the state. The idiots started moving in and they have corrupted most of the good. I cannot even walk in downtown Thomas without seeing gay people making out in front of my kids. It really ticks me off! – Thomas
- If more people come to WV won't be WV anymore. People build on sites, make trash and are rude when they come to visit or stay. – Thomas
- I wanna keep my money, I wanna keep my freedom, I wanna keep my guns, and I wanna be left the **HELL** alone by D.C. busy bodies who think they know what's best for me. They're the biggest problem in my view. – Thomas
- With increased tourism, you open us up to more drug related people/activities which we do not need. Canaan Valley Ski (etc.) offers enough of that shit. I have found that some tourists snub the locals. I'm paying for this weekend adventure, so you move over and get out of my way. – Red Creek
- They come in, they think they own the roads. We don't need tourism. What do we benefit from them. – Canaan Valley
- We lose young people because there is no place for them to make a living. What is left is older folks because the count is a green county. All that will be here is tourism. If tourism could make it so family could live here I would say "great" but in the past that has not happened so leave it alone. – No Response as to location
- Provide more funding for farmers and the poor in our communities. Stop the trash on our mountains. It's not pretty. - St. George
- It is a quiet community and we don't need more criminals. – Hendricks
- Do not like the direction has taken for Front Street. – Thomas
- Not needed. – Hambleton
- So glad Trump was elected, now maybe American can be great again without all this tourism B.S. We need real jobs – not sucking up to tourists – moved to Canada. – Thomas

## Parking

- Need better parking facilities on East Ave.
- No parking in Thomas for tourist to even be able to shop – Residents who rent all those awful buildings in Thomas should park on the top street to allow parking for customers.

## **People**

- Our people are our greatest asset.

## **Problems**

- I am most concerned about more crime coming into County.
- We do not need further drug elements and crime.
- Some people don't want the crime. – Parsons
- Tourists always bring crime and drugs. – Parsons
- Tourism would be nice as it will bring more money to our county but it will bring more drugs here also. We will also need to keep our guns handy as deadheads will also come with tourists. – Hambleton
- I worry about the influx of drugs and the impact on the community, county, and families. – Parsons
- People don't want the crime and traffic. – Parsons

## **Public Services**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> priority should be facilities/services for the residents followed by the tourists. Example: TCHS is in need of a track – but there isn't any state money for that. But, the state has money to pay for a rock wall for tourists. Not right. Our town is in dire need of new water lines. No money for that either. Luring trumps playing!
- We have no medical hospital in our county and are at least 30 to 45 minutes from the closest.
- We need more transportation available. We need some doctors and more available health care in Parsons. – Parsons
- We need better health facilities. – Parsons

- Money and support is needed for emergency services including search and rescue of tourists who get in over their heads or fail to recognize the wild nature of this area. Like ski patrol, we need at least an on-call, trained collection of hikers, bikers, boaters etc., who can cover ground on foot/foot powered
- Page 3 #8, 11, 17; and Page 5 #15 – There is no mention of adequate public water and sewer service in this document. These are essential to proper, appropriate, impact free, sustained tourism development.
- First let's clean up our town - Sidewalks, streets, trashed houses that are empty, empty businesses. Tied up dogs to filthy dog shacks. Let's do all this **before** we bring in visitors please. – Davis
- With the increase of tourism and transient residents need basic public services i.e., safety and law enforcements. – Thomas
- There is a great need for good 24-hour local medical facility that would benefit both local residents and tourists.
- We are looking forward to the completion of Corridor H. It should help. We need more local transportation, full time doctors. A hospital with x-ray and lab work facilities full 7 days a week. We have to go to Elkins for an x-ray. PA cannot take care of our needs and especially with Corridor H coming through. Needs for people hurt on the ski and races. We need someone who can run errands for people who live alone. They have these facilities in other places in the United States. – Parsons
- Too much effort and concern are put into tourism. The town of Davis needs cleaned up and water improved. And, it needs better snow removal in the winter. Something also needs done about slumlords and owners leaving their properties abandoned for months or more, at a time. This is part of the reason this town looks like crap. – Davis

## **Regional Tourism**

- It's really important that we not look at tourism county by county. The visitors don't see the county lines, nor do the natural wonders they come to see. Skiers in Tucker should know about Seneca and climbing in Pendleton. Climbers at Seneca should know about paddling in Tucker. Counties should cooperate to promote a more regional mentality

and plan for thoughtful and sustainable development. The contiguous nature of woods, streams and activities should nurture a broader **geographical** attitude.

### **Road Conditions**

- Need street repairs done
- We need better roads in and out.
- Repair of Rt. 72 south where riverside by road has fallen – cars or trucks cannot pass at that point. The state says they will repair it when money is available. The drive through Rt. 72 is beautiful from spring through fall

### **Ski Improvements**

- The county should show concert about the issues at Timberline Mountain which is negatively impacting the community.
- The tow Alpine Ski areas do not have: 1. An understanding of today's Alpine Skiing; 2. A 5-10-15 year plan for skiing; 3. A group in their businesses that has an understanding of the ski business I the Southeast; 4. Passion for skiing at the top of their organization. Our ski area are the tip players in Tucker County Community, Economic, and Workforce Development.
- If anything is going to change Timberline **MUST** change ownership. – Canaan Valley
- Something needs to be done about Timberline Ski area. It could be wonderful but with the current management it's a dirty smudge in the community. Ditto for Timberline utilities – poorly managed. – Canaan Valley
- Would love to see an established business corporation take over the failing Timberline Ski Resort which is so dangerous. We will not use or allow guests to use. – Canaan Valley
- It would be wonderful if Timberline Ski Resort would get a facelift and become a wonderful place for tourists.
- The best thing would be new owners of the Timberline Four Seasons Resort

### **Top of Mountain vs Bottom**

- Tucker County has several small towns including the county seat in Parsons and Thomas and Davis located on the higher elevation of Backbone Mountain. While the mountain communities seem to pursue tourism and identify as “tourist” locations – Parsons falls greatly behind and seems to identify as a “business” district even though there is only one traffic light...
- I feel the Mt is developing well, however I feel Parsons needs a plan of focus. I would like to see the Mt continue on. St. George has history but not much development. Rafting, I would like to see the camping and community store to develop more.
- I believe there is better collaboration and partnerships between communities on the mountain (Thomas, Davis, Canaan Valley).
- Thomas, Davis, and Canaan Valley would benefit most from more tourists and more things for tourists to do.
- I am all for tourism but in Canaan Valley. I think the Valley should stay the same. I worked there for many years and people come for the beautiful Parsons. Parsons needs many improvements to help the community. – Parsons
- I’m not sure what they would come to see. Parsons is the county seat, but there’s not much to see. Tourists pass through here on their way to Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls. These are vacation spots. – Parsons
- I believe if Parson’s community put more emphasis on persuading the locals to shop locally it would help all aspects of tourism here. Small businesses would be able to flourish instead of close their doors after a few months thus attracting tourists once main streets (Main Street and Seneca Trail) are full of unique shops. – Parsons
- The towns of Thomas and Davis have embraced the pursuit of tourism in their own unique ways while the county seat of Parsons has languished choosing a chain fast food store and “officialdom” over cooperation with the previous mentioned communities. - St. George
- I would like to see more businesses in Parsons. We lost over 50% of our businesses after the flood of 1985 and wish people would have more investors invest in our town. – Parsons
- Tourism is fine but our community is 4 miles from Parsons. We do most of our business there. It would be great for Parsons if a few mom and pop stores and more options for groceries would be nice for us and tourists. – Hendricks

- I hope a variety of people answer this to get more insight into the differences in our communities on top of mountain vs. county seat. – Canaan Valley
- There is definitely a “on the mountain” “off the mountain” mentality in Tucker County. Wish we could all come together collaboratively for the benefit of the entire county. There are so many intelligent and interesting people in both areas. – St. George
- Parsons area and St. George area need more to do with tourists, most of it is in the Davis area! – Parsons
- I feel that having tourism is good to a degree, but make it about the whole county, not just Davis, Thomas, and Canaan
- Parsons would benefit if there were cabins and B & B rentals. The possibility of water and cycling activities would contribute to growth in town. A few more restaurants and shops would be advantageous.
- Parsons needs development.

### **Tourist Train**

- I believe the lack of support was a most unfortunate decision (concerning the Blackwater Canyon development) which would have been an economic “shot in the arm” for all of Tucker County. I believe this outcome and the views expressed by those in positions of power and authority is quite symptomatic of most politicians today in that they operate with a short time horizon of focus. They don’t think long term but concentrate their efforts on self-preservation of winning the next election rather than in doing the people’s business and doing what would benefit the citizens they represent for the long term. This condition isn’t likely to change in my life time but I think it must change in order to get this country back on track when politicians act responsively to the needs of the people they represent. In closing, what “better” alternatives are in place today or have been in service (or implemented) to help the citizens of this country during the past quarter of a century? And to all of those disbelievers who suggested so many “better” alternatives for economic development than the tourist train, I would now say “Your time has come!”
- The tourist railroad is wanted by many. Older people and young children and people with disabilities could experience the beauty of Dolly Sods. Access would be completely controlled. The history of logging timber and military maneuvers could be taught. John

Smith of Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad will build it if we get permission. –  
Canaan Valley

- Put in a scenic railroad that would connect the lower part of the county (Parsons, Hambleton, Hendricks area) with the “upper part” (Thomas, Davis area). The old railroad grade could be utilized. – Parsons

### **Uncooperative**

- We have a long way to go and lots of work to attain harmony.
- There are many pieces in place, but not everyone is on-board.
- At times community is very cliquish, hard to make true friends.
- State does poor job. – Davis
- Local governments do not cooperate. – Unknown

### **Vision**

- Successful tourist communities must have a vision – which today is lacking. We hope this changes in the future and Tucker County embraces and preserves and showcases the remaining forest!!!
- There is no vision for what we could have to really attract those visitors, and so we have facilities stuck in the 1970s and potential tourists who want nicer places to go.
- I’m glad you’re asking these questions. I think whatever is decided, people will get behind, but when the vision is all over the map and then flip flopped, it’s hard to support. If we want to focus on historical culture – great! But, don’t bail before you try is what I’d like to say to someone.

### **Visitor Management**

- Too many tourists bring problems to our area.
- Tourism is great for Tucker County but many visitors to the area seem to just do what they want, don’t park where supposed to like they don’t have to follow the rules.

- My fear is that any more tourists than we already have will make this place so crowded and obnoxious no one will want to live here. Really, most tourist towns are just that: crowded, overpriced and inauthentic – isn't that the definition of a "tourist town"?
- There seems to be an increase in tourists in our area that have a "you owe me, I'm above you" attitude. I am there to serve them, not to be looked down upon because I'm a state parks employee.
- I am aware that tourism does bring \$ into our communities but sometimes feel over crowded when tourists are here! Try driving with them in winter – It's a nightmare!! Labor Day exceedingly busy – Sometimes I want to leave for the weekend.

### **Workforce Training**

- And, really, there is nothing more heartbreaking to me than hearing people complaining that there are no good workers locally in Tucker Co. and how hard it is to find "good" people and then never train or orient the workers you do have. No one is born knowing how important it is to smile and say hello to others – we are **TAUGHT** that (or **LEARN** it because someone did it for us!).
- I would love to see the area grow. I am very interested in owning my own business in the area, something to add to the tourist attraction to our town.
- Service training and a hospitality focus is needed! – Canaan Valley
- With adequate facilities it could handle a lot more tourists without being too crowded. Better management of ski areas and resorts and employee training in customer service would be a help.