



Resources and income levels of farm and nonfarm rural residents in three western Montana counties
by Oliver Wendell Holmes

A THESIS Submitted to the Graduate Faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Science in Agricultural Economics at Montana State College

Montana State University

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Abstract:

The study is concerned with a descriptive analysis of the rural residents of three low-income counties
in Western Montana.

This research project is intended to service the Rural Development Program in Western Montana. A
survey of rural residences was conducted in two Rural Development counties and one other county in
the low-income area of Western Montana. An interview sample of 322 rural residences was obtained,
getting information on physical and human resources, income and levels of living.

Respondents were classified on the basis of income, paying particular attention to low-income groups
that (1) have resources but lack development and management} (2) are short on resources} and (3) are
retired.

Forty-one percent of the respondents were in these three income groups. Further evaluation showed
that one-half of these people were in these low-income groups because of large capital outlay for the
year, or because of payments made on debts incurred in past years.

The others in the low-income group are limited in their abilities to better their position because of age
or health limitations or the lack of education, training or skills which would enable them to obtain
better paying positions. A lack of motivation or desire to better their position seemed to be common
among these low-income groups.

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O. WENDELL HOLMES, JR.

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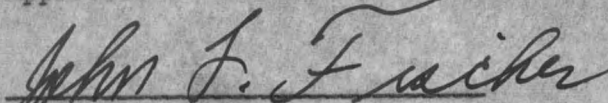
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