Lincoln County
North Lincoln Community Center
Community Facilities Project

Project Description: In 2010, Lincoln County received a $1,300,451 Community Facilities Program grant to rehabilitate and convert an existing vacant school located in Etna, an unincorporated community in North Lincoln County, into a community center. Grant funds will pay for structural upgrades, a new roof, heating and cooling upgrades, playground equipment, sprinkler system, commercial kitchen, and interior improvements such as carpeting and painting. Lincoln County owns the facility and leases it to the North Lincoln Community Center Steering Committee, a nonprofit organization, at no cost. The NLCC will operate and maintain the facility. After completion of the facility, the original NLCC Steering Committee met with the county commissioners and county attorney and formed the Star Valley Community Center Recreation Board of Trustees (SVCCRB) to oversee the new Star Valley Community Complex.

Project History: The Metcalf Elementary School building was originally constructed in 1956. Two facility expansions were completed in 1983 and 1992. The building served as an elementary school until 2008 when a new school was built. Since then, the school has been vacant except for occasional use by local businesses, boards, and non-profit groups.

Benefits Realized at the end of Construction: Since completion and opening of the Star Valley Community Complex in 2012, there are two businesses, a local land surveyor and a seamstress, that lease space in the facility. Western Wyoming Community College uses space for a GED program, and Silver Star Communications provided personal computers and printers to program participants. The Thayne Recreation Program uses the multi-purpose room for activities and the former library space is used for agency open houses, classes, recitals, and other various meetings. The Etna Water & Sewer district uses a conference room for regular meetings and in exchange do not charge the facility for water service for use of room. Since its opening, there have been 1,000 users per month at the facility and funds collected per month from rental and use fees have been offsetting most of the utility and maintenance fees. The START Bus began using the site in October 2012 for commuter parking for those that head to Jackson for their jobs. The bus runs Monday through Friday and there are anywhere from 15 to 30 commuter vehicles at the site on any given day.

The SVCCRB is completing a plan for a business start-up completion. The board hopes to encourage small businesses to participate by offering commercial space along with business classes. The program should benefit the community as a whole and secondarily benefit the facility by occupying more space. The board continues to market the daycare space and commercial kitchen space to potential tenants.