

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: What Distinguishes High Out-Migration Counties From Other Nonmetro Counties—and From Each Other?

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) Economic Information Bulletin

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: Population loss is endemic to many rural areas. Over a third of nonmetropolitan counties lost at least 10 percent of their population through out-migration over 1988-2008. Some of these counties have had very high poverty rates and a lack of economic opportunity is clearly a major factor in their high out-migration. Other high out-migration counties, however, are relatively prosperous, with low unemployment rates, low high school dropout rates, and average household incomes. For these counties, low population density and less appealing landscapes are central features distinguishing them from nonmetropolitan counties not experiencing high out-migration. In a 1996 survey, many manufacturers in these outmigration counties reported attracting managers and professionals to the areas as a major problem for their ability to compete.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 06/02/10 End: 07/12/10 Completed: 09/17/10

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No